

# Today's Message

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## **The Gospel & Church Covenants**

Various Passages

*The Gospel for Real Life*

*June 10, 2012*

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1. Joshua's Covenant (Joshua 24:1-8)
2. David & Jonathan's Covenant (1 Samuel 18:1-5)
3. Josiah's Covenant (2 Kings 23:1-3, 25)
4. Nehemiah's Covenant (Nehemiah 9:32-38)

### **III. Why is GraceSLO using a signed Covenant?**

A signed Covenant is in line with the Biblical \_\_\_\_\_ of covenant-making and covenant renewal.

A signed Covenant is not the \_\_\_\_\_ of doing church or membership, but a tool that many churches use.

A signed Covenant is a tool for us to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ our commitment to one another and to the Lord together in the local church.

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In Fall 2012, GraceSLO will launch into Covenant Membership centered around a written, signed Covenant. This summer, we're getting used to and processing the idea together.

This morning, we're asking the question together . . .

### ***Is it Biblical to use a signed Covenant?***

#### **I. What is a Covenant?**

A relational commitment

A committed relationship

#### **II. What does the Bible teach about Covenants?**

God is a covenant-\_\_\_\_\_, covenant-\_\_\_\_\_ God.

(Neh. 9:32) We are His \_\_\_\_\_ people.

God is pleased when we, His people, together \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to Him.

The making of and renewal of covenants in response to God's grace is \_\_\_\_\_ among God's people throughout the Bible.

#### **Connecting (20 mins or so)**

In this last week of Spring Growth Groups, make sure you take time to put a cap on the quarter. Hopefully, you're going to share some food and celebrate the joy of Christian fellowship and life together.

#### **Digging into & Applying God's Word (30 mins or so)**

1. How did this text/message grab you? What did you think?  
What questions arose for you?
2. The word "Covenant" is not one we use very much anymore, but it's a very Biblical word and concept. What does it mean, in its most general sense? How was it defined in the message?
3. What does Nehemiah 9:32 teach us about God? What did Jesus say in Luke 22:20? In what ways has God committed Himself to us? What's the relationship between the Gospel and the concept of "covenant"?

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Spend some time wrapping up the quarter in prayer. Pray for the summer and pray for GraceSLO in these days of change.

4. What do we mean when we say we are "God's covenant people?" What might be gained in recapturing this concept and thinking of ourselves as such?
  
5. Read through Joshua 24:1-28, 2 Kings 23:1-3, 25 and Nehemiah 9:32-38. What is happening in each of these passages? What do we make of the fact that these moments are recorded and celebrated in Scripture?
  
6. If God is pleased and praised when we commit and recommit ourselves to Him and to one another, why are we so afraid of commitment?
  
7. Though unfamiliar and uncomfortable to us, based on the Biblical evidence, do you think using a written, signed Covenant to express our commitment to the Lord is unbiblical or displeasing to the Lord?

**Praying Together (20 mins or so)**