

The Covenantal Life
Week 1 - Human Covenants
Malachi 2:13-16, Hebrews 13:17, Romans 13:12

- The fundamental claim of Scripture is that we live in a created universe
 - This means that we are inescapably bound by God's word-law
 - Job 38:4-21, Ps. 148:5-6, 104:1-8
 - Man's responsibility is to respond obediently to God's command **willfully**
 - His rebellion is to not only disobey, but to overthrow the authority of God and establish a new reality - Ps. 2:2-3
 - Rebellion against God's created order itself is seen in the way we govern our relationships
 - Our attempts to redefine relationships, to pretend we live in an entirely socially constructed world is an attempt to live outside the command of God
- The world God made is objective, and the created manner in which God establishes, binds, and governs relationships is covenant
 - Primarily in Scripture, we consider the redemptive covenants between God and man
 - There are important, essential, human covenants that are non-salvific
 - This has an impact on how we actually live out the Christian life
 - Part of the reason why the culture is in the state that it is is because the church has largely ignored the fact that we live in God's world and are inescapably bound by His law
- Our age is individualistic, voluntaristic, and obsessed with autonomy
 - Because we live in God's world, we sense that we are truly united to others, and so we attempt to explain, attempt, and pervert these ties that bind
 - Family above all mentality
 - Unqualified patriotism; extreme nationalism
 - Identity groups; ideology
- The reality of covenant flows from the nature of God and is the objective matrix in which creation exists
 - The persons of the Trinity are in eternal covenant with one another
 - As God's image-bearers, we reflect this in the world
- **Covenant** is a relationship marked by **mutual obligations** defined and enforced **by God**, which may only be dissolved when there are **significant and specific** violations of the covenant law
 - We have no authority to dissolve these relationships which shape life, create loyalty
 - We will be considering Marriage and Family, Church Membership, and Citizenship