

The Covenant of Works

1. Getting the garden right
 - a. The covenant of works is that covenant imposed upon Adam, who was a representative of mankind (or a public person), with a reward conditioned upon his obedience and a penalty for his disobedience, for the bettering of man's state.

2. What happened in the garden?
 - a. What was Adam's condition at creation?

 - b. What special rule did God give Adam?

 - c. What was the penalty for disobedience?

 - d. Was there a reward for obedience?

 - e. Did Adam and Eve act for themselves alone, or is there evidence that they were acting in a representative capacity?

3. How are Adam and Christ parallel?
 - a. Scripture calls Christ "Adam"—1Co 15:45 Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit."

 - b. Rom. 5 sets up an extended parallel

4. Was this arrangement with Adam a covenant?
 - a. Objections considered:
 - i. The missing term

 - ii. The word "works"

 - iii. A legal rather than a familial arrangement

- b. It has all the elements of a covenant:
 - i. A relational arrangement
 - ii. Initiated by God
 - iii. For his good – eternal life upon obedience
 - iv. Conditions – obedience with curse attached for disobedience
5. How can we apply this?
- a. It removes all hope of attaining life by our works.
 - b. Thinking of the work and failure of Adam clarifies the work of Christ.
 - c. Our sin is ultimately against God, not simply an inconvenience or a breaking of horizontal relationships.