

Covenant Ligaments CD4436

I. Nature of the (Sinews) Ligaments

- A. Ephesians 4:11–16 (compare to Ezekiel 37:1–14)
- B. Jesus gave the fivefold ministries: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11)
 - 1. Why? For perfecting (equipping) the saints for the work of the ministry
 - 2. For edifying (building up) the church
- C. Objectives (Ephesians 4:13)
 - 1. The unity of the faith
 - 2. The knowledge (or acknowledging) of the Son of God
 - 3. To bring full-grown maturity
 - 4. Into the stature of the fullness of Christ
- D. Two options: Come under discipline and authority – or remain a spiritual baby
- E. The completed body (verse 16)
 - 1. Every part in the right place and function
 - 2. Joints are interpersonal relationships – supply the need
- F. Compare to Colossians 2:18–19
 - 1. These are the “super-spirituals”
 - 2. They do not hold to the Head (Jesus)
 - 3. Not rightly related to fellow believers

II. What Is the Ligament?

- A. The ligament is covenant
- B. A forgotten secret
- C. A parallel covenant: marriage
 - 1. Courtship
 - 2. Commitment
 - 3. Covenant
 - 4. Physical union
 - 5. Continuing fellowship
 - 6. If any element is missing, it is not a complete covenant
- D. Christian fellowship should follow a similar route

III. What Is Covenant?

- A. In the Bible, every place you find a covenant, you find a sacrifice and you find the shedding of blood
- B. There is no covenant without a sacrifice and no sacrifice without the shedding of blood
- C. Two covenants with Abraham
 - 1. “A” covenant – Genesis 15 – not eternal – fulfilled under Joshua
 - 2. “My” covenant – Genesis 17 – everlasting – and “to his seed after him”
- D. Statements about covenants
 - 1. Psalm 25:10–14: Mercy and truth if we keep His covenant
 - 2. Psalm 50:1–5: God’s saints, committed ones, are those who “cut a covenant” with Him
 - 3. Ezekiel 20:32–38: The regathering of Israel into His fold
 - 4. Hebrews 6:16–17: No covenant without the death of the one who makes it (Revelation 12:11)

- E. In Genesis 15, God totally committed Himself to Abraham in covenant (Jeremiah 34:18)
- F. Jesus laid down His life for us
 - 1. We are to lay down our lives for each other (1 John 3:16–17)
 - 2. Love one another, as Jesus loved you (John 13:34–35)
 - 3. Continue in Jesus' love (John 15:9)
- G. The covenant brings the love, not the other way around (John 15:12–13, 17)

IV. The Eternal Covenant in Heaven

- A. The Father loved the Son (John 15:9)
- B. Loved before the beginning of time (2 Timothy 1:9)
- C. Eternal life promised before the world began (Titus 1:2)
- D. An everlasting covenant (Hebrews 13:20)
- E. An eternal temple in heaven (Revelation 11:19; 15:5)

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