

***The Biblical Christian Life***  
***versus***  
***Covenant Theology's (CT) Kingdom Living***

1. The Bible speaks to God's grand *unity of purpose*—to glorify Himself in Christ (Eph.1:10; Rev. 5:13; 21:23). This involves divine *glory* in two spheres, the *earthly* and the *heavenly* (John 17:4, 5; Eph.1). In the future, the current cosmos will pass away and be replaced by a “new heaven and a new earth.” Then, the “glory of God” will take the place of billions of stars to light the New Creation (Rev. 21:1, 4, 23).
2. Consistent with this purpose, God has made *earthly* Israel distinct (Rom. 11) from the *heavenly* Church. From God's sovereign election before the creation of the world (Eph. 1:4), salvation for both is *by grace through faith* (Eph. 2:8) in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
3. Except for the *eternal covenant* revealed exclusively in Hebrews 13:20, *covenants* pertain to the earth. Rather than looking to Christ's *glory*, CT seeks both unity and blessing in earthly *covenants*. It erroneously applies a covenantal framework (straight jacket) upon all Scripture and teaches that the relation between God and man is always a covenant. Rather than Jews and non-Jews as heirs together and members of one *heavenly* Body, CT erroneously makes the Church the replacement or co-heir to some or all of Israel's five *earthly* covenants: Abrahamic, Mosaic (Old), Palestinian, Davidic, and New.
4. However, the Apostle Paul in his epistles spoke of a *Mystery (mustērion)*, truths previously unknown (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:5, 9; Col. 1:26), and as “the Word of God in its fullness” or completion (*plerosai*). The *Mystery* was revealed exclusively to him by the Risen and Ascended Christ (Eph. 3:3). The *Mystery* was not, is not, nor will ever be a covenant. Rather, the *Mystery* involves: a *heavenly* Body (Bride/Church), with life in union and oneness with the Risen and Ascended Christ (John 14:20, 17:23; Col. 1:27), and partners in God's promises in the Messiah. Further, the *mystery* of God's will (Eph. 1:9) is that in the “dispensation of the fullness of times” (i.e., future Millennium), Christ will bring under His authority both the *heavenly* and *earthly* spheres. This Pauline *Mystery* is a mystery to CT.
5. In keeping with this *earthly* and *heavenly* design, God's has designated two representative men: a First Adam and a Last Adam, who is Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:45-49). CT rightly acknowledges these two federal headships with regard to justification (Rom. 3:21-26; 5:18-19), but fails to understand their function as ‘fountainheads’ of life and relevance to sanctification (Rom. 6-8; Gal. 2:20). CT's emphasis and focus is largely upon SINS, limited to transgressions of the Mosaic Law given to Israel, rather than SIN their cause, i.e., the Adamic life.
6. From birth, all humanity is born in SIN and bears the image of the First Adam (Gen. 5:3). Moment-by-moment all humanity has received, except for One, the ‘breath of life’ from our fallen progenitor, the First Adam (Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12). By nature, the Adamic life is *dead unto God* and *alive unto sin* (Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:22). “That which is born of the flesh is flesh” (John 3:6).
7. To place on cosmic display the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience (Gen. 3), God laid various tests upon humanity—the Adamic life which issues forth from the First Adam. Primary among these was the giving of Law by Moses (John 1:17; Rom. 3:20, 7:13), and finally—the presentation of *grace* and *truth* personified, Jesus Christ (John 1:14), to God's chosen nation—Israel. Israel did not, and could not, keep the Law. Further, they rejected and crucified the Savior. All God's testing ended with the crucifixion of His Son—at the Cross!
8. Through testing, fallen humanity was proved fully incorrigible. At Calvary, all things Adamic (both life and death) were judged, condemned, and judicially terminated in the mind of God. For CT, Adam's image is unworthy of judgment and condemnation; rather, it warrants divine restoration based on its residual splendor (Gen. 1:26; Acts 17:24-31) from the hand of the Creator.

9. At Calvary, God the Father established Jesus Christ as: the Last Adam, the Second Man, the Head of a New Creation, and Source of eternal life (Romans 6:23). Participation in eternal life is by a new birth (John 3:3). Those “born again” consequently bear the image and life of the Last Adam (1 Cor. 15:49). Christ, John, and Paul posit antithesis; two representatives, two lives with differing natures (Gal. 5:16-25), and *exchange* (Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:5-10). CT posits one nature, *change, amelioration, or transformation*—with the goal of bringing humanity back to the pre-Fall world of the First Adam, with moral law internalized.
  10. While the Apostle Paul taught the Cross (Romans 6), life in union with the Risen Christ (Gal. 2:20, 21), a *heavenly* calling (Heb. 3:1), and the principle of a New Creation (Gal. 6:14-16); CT places the *heavenly* Christian under law for obedient and moral living. Law is said to now be “a rule of life,” rather than the *rule of death* mentioned in Romans 7:9-11. According to many, their “kingdom living” and law keeping is said to be supernaturally empowered pursuant to Israel’s New Covenant (Ezek. 37:26, 27; Jer. 31:33).
  11. Despite the claims of CT, God the Holy Spirit does not honor or facilitate “kingdom living”...now. Israel’s New Covenant, which was ratified at Calvary by the Blood of Jesus Christ, will be implemented during the future Millennium. Today, the *heavenly* believer should not be called upon to “keep the law with the Spirit’s help” as an expression of holiness. For those who respond, chronic failure and hypocrisy are the norm, which then progressively becomes a religious *status quo* (Rom. 7:8-25; 3:17-24). Rather than the believer’s identification with the Cross and Christ’s life for Christian living\*, various excuses and gimmicks are advanced by CT to address the failure: old habits, habituation, residual influence, eradication, discipleship, Sermon on the Mount, Lordship, follow Jesus’ earthly examples, pray for God’s help, promise keepers, purpose-driven, stronger faith and hope, put off bad behavior, put on good behavior, unconditional love, precepts, accountability partners, baptism of the Holy Ghost, tongues, casting out demons, etc.
- \* for a comprehensive explanation, read: *The Complete Green Letters*, Miles J. Stanford, Zondervan, 1975.
12. Because of its original emphasis upon *covenants* at the expense of all else, CT sees Israel’s New Covenant and Christ’s Kingdom as having been inaugurated at the Cross. Despite the myriad of contradictions, their kingdom is now. The term for this error is Amillennialism.



Thank God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for the revelation of the *Mystery*. God has called out a *heavenly* people to be his own, a Bride, who will reign with Jesus Christ during the Millennium following His Second Coming.

