

The Adamic Covenant (Covenant of Works)

The important feature of Covenant Theology is Federalism.
The entire human race is either represented by Adam or by Christ as Federal Head.

There are primarily two NT Scriptures to prove this point.

Romans 5:12-21

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

There are two kinds of Covenants God makes with Man.

Conditional = covenant of works

Unconditional = such as the covenant of grace

In a Covenant of Works – (Such as the Adamic Covenant)

1. There are the terms from the greater party to the inferior
2. A promise is made by the greater party to the lesser
3. Allegiance is sworn by the lesser party
4. There is a threat and punishment for breaking the covenant
5. There is a seal to the covenant

Three categories of law:

From **AW Pink**

Natural Law : “Being created in the image and likeness of God, it was his very nature to delight himself in the Lord, and just as the animals are endowed with a nature or instinct which prompts them to choose and do that which makes for their well-being, so man in his pristine glory was endowed with a nature which prompted him to do that which is pleasing unto God, and that which prompted his own highest interests – the remains of which appear in fallen man’s rationality and conscience.”

“By **the moral law** which was given to Adam by God, we mean that he was placed under the requirements of the Ten Commandments, the summary of which is ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself.’ Nothing less than that was due unto Adam’s maker and nothing short of it became him as an upright creature.”

By **positive law** we mean that God also placed certain restrictions upon Adam, which had never occurred to him from either the light of nature or from any moral considerations: instead, they were sovereignly appointed by God and were designed as a special test of Adam’s subjection to the imperial will of his King.

Two trees in the midst of the Garden.
One tree forbidden to Adam by God Himself. (by positive law)

The Tree of Life assured him of continuing life as long as the terms of the covenant were kept.

Matthew Henry, “So far from The Tree of Life being a natural means of prolonging Adam’s physical life, it was a sacramental pledge of endless life and happiness being secured to him as the unmerited reward of fidelity. It was therefore an object for faith to feed upon – the physical eating to intimate the spiritual. Like all other signs and seals, this one was not designed to confer the promised blessing, but was a divine pledge given to Adam’s faith to encourage the expectation thereof. It was a visible emblem to bring to remembrance what God had promised.”

Revelation. 2:7 -- He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To him who overcomes I will give to eat from **the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.**

Signs (types and shadows) of the Covenant of Grace in the Garden

The Covenant of Grace promised in Gen. 3:15.

1. Adam entered the world like no one else ever did. He did not have a human father and God breathed into him his spirit. And so it is with Christ – no human father and begotten by the Holy Spirit.
2. Adam entered into the world without a sin nature – and so did the second Adam.
3. Adam’s wife was taken out of him – so Adam could say she was “bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. So it is with Christ and His bride – **Eph. 5:30** -- “we are members of His body, (as the NKV says) of his flesh and of his bones.”
4. Adam fell beneath the curse of God. In like manner, Christ bore the curse of God for us. Gal. 3:13 -- Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree”),
5. What Adam did is imputed to all those whom he represents (federal headship). In like manner what Christ did is imputed to all he represents. **Romans 5:19.**