

## *Covenants: Our Bond with the Divine*

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*BYU*

*What is a covenant?*

“a solemn agreement between two or more parties”

“a promise of God to His children”

“a solemn agreement between God and His children  
containing His promises to us”

*What does it mean “to covenant”?*

*karat be'rith* = “to cut a bond”

*What are the basic elements of a covenant?*

introduction

historical context

stipulations (general/specific)

**ritual act (symbolic ordinance)**

rewards & punishments

witnesses (helpers)

perpetuation

*What are the two common types of covenants?*

vertical (between God and His children)

horizontal (between humans, either as individuals or groups)

*Five critical covenants that help us return to the Father:*

Baptism: the gateway covenant

Sacrament: the renewal covenant

Priesthood: the service covenant

Endowment: the gift covenant

Sealing: the bonding covenant

*What are some signs and symbols of covenants?*

names, words, hands, mouths, oil, salt, bread, wine, water, clothing, cutting motion, etc.

*What are the purposes of covenants?*

Teachings and Guidelines

Incentives and Rewards

Gateways and Ordinances

Patterns and Measurements

*Keeping covenants help us*

**Know** God’s will

**Do** God’s commandments

**Become** more Godlike

*Key Words of Advice*

**Vision** (insight and understanding into the nature and value of covenants)

**Commitment** (now and forever in new and everlasting covenants)

**Integrity** (before, during, and after entering covenants)

## **COVENANT "BELIEF STATEMENTS"**

(Taken from Principles and Practices of the Restored Gospel, Deseret Book Co., 1992)

### *It's Your Choice -- The Nature of Free Agency*

10. The divine gift of **AGENCY** is an eternal principle that permeates our relationship with the Almighty, and it requires identity, knowledge, freedom of choices, action, law, efficacy, and preservation to be in full operation.

### *Life's Perfect Way Through Christ's Atonement*

13. **JESUS** of Nazareth lived a sinless life, taught eternal values, and became the **perfect way** -- showing all people the path toward happiness, holiness and exaltation; his **atonement** satisfied both the demands of justice and the expectations of mercy, bringing salvation to God's children.

### *The Cleansing Covenant of Baptism*

18. **BAPTISM** is a symbolic ordinance of cleansing and new life, and it is also the covenant gateway into Christ's church and God's celestial kingdom.

### *A Holy Day of Restful Service*

25. Sunday is our **SABBATH**, a holy day when we should rest from our weekly labors, worship God, renew our sacramental covenants, and serve others in a spirit of reverence.

### *Sharing God's Power on Earth*

32. The **PRIESTHOOD** is the power and authority to act for God, and with it and through various priesthood councils, Christ's church administers to all members. Worthy men have the Aaronic or Melchizedek Priesthood conferred upon them, are ordained to offices in that priesthood, are organized into quorums, and are set apart and given keys to administer in certain callings.

### *Temples of Holiness*

23. Latter-day Saints, like the ancient Israelites, are a covenant people who worship in **TEMPLES** where they learn about their relationship with God, make sacred commitments, receive key directions about returning to God's presence, and do ordinance work for their deceased relatives.

### *A Divine Mission*

34. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has the **MISSION** to invite all to come unto Christ and receive his sanctifying grace as we: (1) **proclaim** the gospel to all peoples, (2) **perfect** the Saints in the household of faith; and (3) **perform** vicarious ordinances for the living spirits of the deceased.

God's Covenants **Teach:** to instruct, to provide with knowledge, to show how to do or achieve something.

God's Covenants **Empower:** to give power or authority to someone, to give ability or special gifts to a person or group.

God's Covenants **Sanctify:** to make holy or sacred (consecrated for divine purposes), to make productive of spiritual blessings.

Key Scriptures: Deut 29:12-15; D&C 19:23; Mosiah 5; Moroni 10 (esp. vv 30-33); D&C 42:61; 84:19-22; 46:8-26; 2 Ne 2:14-28; Matt 25:21; D&C 98:1-18; Jer 50:4-5; D&C 66:2

Eventually everyone bonds or identifies with good or evil, God or Satan, either formally (with specific covenants) or informally (with desires and actions) – What is your choice?