

## The Covenants Compared<sup>1</sup>

### Paul Ellis

The number one reason why Christians struggle with sin is that they don't fully value what Christ did for them on the cross; they don't know what makes the new covenant *new*.

	Old Covenant	New Covenant	Scriptures
Based on	Law	Grace	Luke 4:18-19, John 1:17, Rom 8:31-33
Type	Inferior, obsolete, useless for dealing with sin, a mere shadow	Superior, effective remedy for sin, the lasting reality	Heb 8-10, 2 Cor 3:9-11
A ministry that	Condemns and kills	Gives new life	2 Cor 3:6-9, 5:17, John 5:24, 10:10
Makes people	Slaves	Free	Gal 4:21-27
Mediated by	Frail, flawed men	The Son of Man	Heb 5:1-10, 9:15
Represented by	Mt. Sinai - a burning place of terror	Mt. Zion - a heavenly place of joy	Heb 12:18-22
Sin has	Power over you	No power over you	Rom 6:14, 1 Cor 15:56
Payment for sin	Requires an endless cycle of sacrifices	No longer required (God keeps no record)	Heb 8:12, 9:26, 10:12,17, 18, 2 Cor 5:19
Repentance is	Turning from sin	Turning to God	Acts 3:19, 20:21, 26:28, Rom 2:4
Faith is	A work	A rest	Matt 11:28-30, Heb 3:18-19, 4:3,10-11
Change happens when you	Make an effort and stick to it	Behold the glory of Jesus	2 Cor 3:18
Righteousness	Demanded from you	Given to you	Rom 1:17, 5:17, 2 Cor 5:21
You are blessed	If you obey	Because Christ obeyed	Deut 28:1-14, Eph 1:3
To fear the Lord is	To fear his anger and destruction	To worship him	Deu 6:13-15, Mat 4:10, 1 John 4:18
Obedience is	Keeping the rules	A fruit of love	John 15:9-10, 1 John 2:3
Eternal security hangs on	Your faithfulness	God's faithfulness	John 6:37, 14:16-17, 1 Cor 1:8-9, 2 Cor 1:21-22, Is 49:15
You are	A servant (or sinner!)	A beloved son	Gal 3:26, Rms 8:14, Heb 12:7, 1 Jn 3:1
God is	Scary judge	My loving Father	John 17:25-26, Rms 8:15, Gal 4:6

"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father... For everything that Christ taught, **everything that makes the New Testament new**, and better than the Old, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. 'Father' is the Christian name for God." ~J.I. Packer



<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *What Makes the New Covenant New*, by Paul Ellis ([www.escapetoreality.org](http://www.escapetoreality.org)).