

Book Review
Life in the Covenant in Family, Church, and World
By Wilbur Bruinsma
Reviewed by Geoff Veldman

If you ever wanted to read a real life practical book about God's covenant, this is the book for you. This is a very well written book that is easy to read and easy to understand and apply to your life here on earth. You will be able to tell it was written by a minister and pastor in how it has doctrine and theology mixed in with real life examples and application in the real world. It will remind you of the sermons we are so blessed to hear each and every Sunday, full of truths of God's Word and yet very practical and applicable to our life, spurring us on to consciously live in the covenant all of our lives. It encourages the young to give them hope that God will never forsake His covenant with his people.

Section one is about God's covenant and the family. In this section he applies the covenant in our families, marriage, and children. He explains how family derives from the Trinity of God and is an expression of God as a family God. He tells of the calling to love as Christ loves us, help each other, submit and live a life of faithful sacrifice and willingness to forgive. Children are a gift of God and we are to raise them to the utmost of our power in the fear of His Name. Also, he reminds us that our homes must be homes of communion with each other and devoted to God. He ends with a section on the adversity we face as a result of sin. God uses adversity for our advantage to shape and mold us to place our hope on things heavenly and not on things of this earth.

Section two is about God's covenant and the church. In this section he applies the covenant to the church body, His dwelling place, where there is communion of the saints that gather there. It is the body of Christ, elected from eternity to bond together in worship. He tells us how to meet as prophets, priests, and kings to submit to each other and hear the means of grace, preaching, and the sacraments. Doing this we will live together in communion using our talents wisely for the unity of the church. God will gather His Church and use His means to continue His covenant forever.

Section three is about God's covenant and the believers' life in the world. This section is very practical about our life and how we are to interact with all whom God places in our paths. He tells us that we are to submit to authority, shine our light in our witness, live antithetical, enjoy entertainment, and work hard. All of these things are matters of the heart, out of which flows our actions. He ends with a word of encouragement to trust in God in all things because heaven (not earth) is our home and the covenant will be perfected there with no sin and no enemies for eternity. This is our hope and our incentive to push on, for great is our reward in heaven!

Retail Price \$29.95

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