

*The*

*Blood Covenant Union with God and His People*

# EXCHANGE



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A Man drank from a cup, saying this was a new covenant in His blood. A blood covenant establishes a union deeper and more intimate than any other relationship, even marriage. “Testament,” is the Latin word for covenant, so the New Testament is the manual for this blood covenant which makes us one with God and with His people.

## Blood Covenant

Two Vikings lie beneath the sod, arms clasped, fore-arms pierced. The blood flows. The cover of the temporary grave is raised. The blood covenant is complete. Two warriors step out with a common purpose, blood brothers who will fight and die for each other. A victory for one is a triumph for the other. Two warriors entered the sod; two separate bodies now with one purpose leave. The blood that flowed between them is a symbol of the soul. Two bodies with a common soul.

Two young men in Madagascar swear oaths, promising to protect and care for each other. They swear to protect and care for each other's wives and children should anything remiss occur. They promise that all property is now held in common. They take further oaths, then taste each other's blood drawn from small incisions.

A Man lifts a cup of wine. He declares it to be His blood. He shares it with His friends as He proclaims the establishment of a New Covenant. Because of the implications of that covenant, He is immediately led away to be slaughtered – but not for anything He has done; He must now pay a price, a debt that had been His friends'. After paying that debt, everything that belongs to this Prince is sworn to His friends – even the right to be co-rulers in His Kingdom. But He gives more than every *thing* to His friends. He gives Himself.

An early church holds a communion service. They remember the covenant Christ has made with them and reaffirm that covenant. They have all become one with God, and in so doing, have become one with each other. They hold all things in common (Acts 2:44) because they are in *communion* with each other.

A King came down to this earth to lift us up to His exalted position. On a cross, He became like us, that we could become like Him. He became sin that we might share His nature and His righteousness. The text of ancient wisdom from 2 Corinthians 5:21 says “[The Father] made [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness

of God in Him.” Christ took not only our sins, He fully became sin for us. Because Christ took into Himself our sins, we can receive His righteousness. In a supernatural exchange, prefigured in other blood covenants, Christ exchanged His nature with ours.

As we clothe ourselves with Christ (Romans 13:14 NIV), His power and nature become alive within us. This breathes the essence of the Gospel that “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me (Galatians 2:20).”

This exchange is the essence of the New *Testament*, which means our new *covenant* with Christ. When Christ said this is “the new covenant in My blood (Luke 22:20),” He was referring to this brand new covenant or testament. When Christ drank from the cup at His last meal, He was covenanting with His disciples, and us, to take upon Himself our natures and give us His.

That night, our sins, our nature, fell upon Him. The result was a trial, an inquisition, and the condemnation of an innocent Man. A Man who was only sharing in our sins but still had to pay their full penalty. He died, crucified on a tree, and descended into hell itself. But once He paid the price for sins He had not committed, sin and sin’s master, Satan, no longer had any power over Him. Re-empowered by the Father, Christ smashed through hell, defeated its powers, and proclaimed victory for all who follow Him.

Everyone entering into covenant with Christ will share in that victory. As Christ took our sinful nature upon Himself, we take His nature through that same covenant into ourselves. As Christ defeated sin and its master, so the nature of Christ within us will defeat and triumph over sin and its master yet again (and forevermore!)

**NEXT CHAPTER**