

Sign On The Line

Reality Sets In When We Sign:

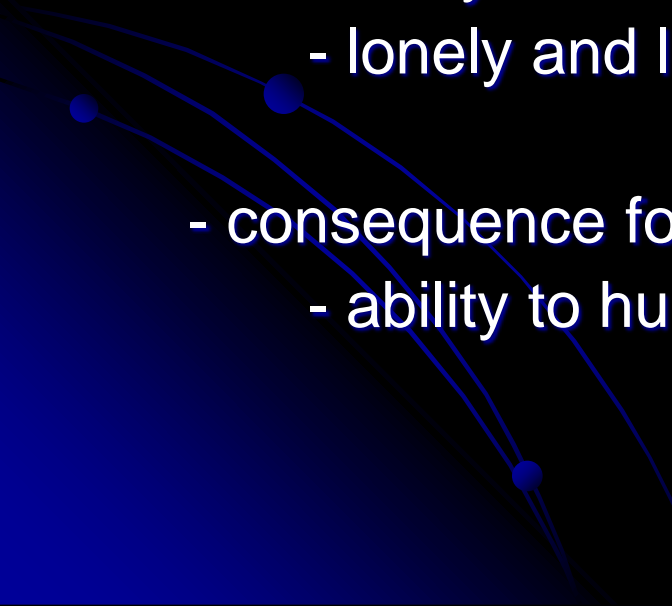
- Loans for a New Vehicle
- Marriage License
- Will and Estate Planning
- Contract at Work

• Accountable to the Agreement We Make

- benefits are guaranteed
- consequences are set out for broken agreement

Sign On The Line

Bride of Christ – covenanted to be married

- fully devoted to one another
 - ready to commit
 - anxiously awaiting being reunited
 - lonely and longing
 - consequence for unfaithfulness
 - ability to hurt the other party
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Nehemiah 9:38

“In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it.”

Setting

- climax of three weeks of worship and celebration
- after decades of exile – return to God’s intended
- 445 BC. Nehemiah brings group from Persia
- wall rebuilt among tremendous opposition

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- Chpt. 8 – Ezra reads the people law of Moses
- 24 days later – renewal of covenant
- ‘In view of this.....’
 1. Who God Is.
 - vs.6 – made heavens and earth
 - vs.7-8 – chose a people and gave to them
 - vs. 9-10 – heard the cry of fathers and delivered
 - vs. 12 – guided with pillars of fire
 - vs. 13 – gave them good statutes and commands

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* recounted what they knew about God *

- all powerful, all knowing, merciful, able, active

* note – after reading the account – verbalized what they had learned about God*

2. How We Acted

- vs. 16 – arrogant, stiff necked, disobedient

- vs. 18 – made for themselves an image to worship

- vs. 26 – disobedient, rebellious, rejecting your law

- vs. 26 – killed your prophets, committed blasphemy

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- vs. 28 – when at rest – did evil in your sight

- vs. 29 – ignored warnings – arrogant and disobedient

- * Note – accurate recitation of the past without excuses

- does not say – poor leadership, many hardships, mitigating circumstances, somewhat justified response.

3. God's Grace Towards Us

- vs. 9-10 – saw suffering, sent signs and wonders

- vs. 11-13 – divided sea, defeated pursuers, led us, gave us your word, bread from heaven, water from rock

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- vs. 17- gracious, forgiving, compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in Love. Did not desert them!
- vs. 19 – did not cease to guide them
- vs.20-22 – gave them your spirit, did not withhold manna, led them, gave kingdoms and nations, sustained
- vs. 28 – cried out and were delivered time and again
- vs. 31 – did not abandon them – great and merciful
- * note – focus on faithfulness of God not failures of men
- * note – focus on God delivered – not man won

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In View of All This – We are ready to Sign Up

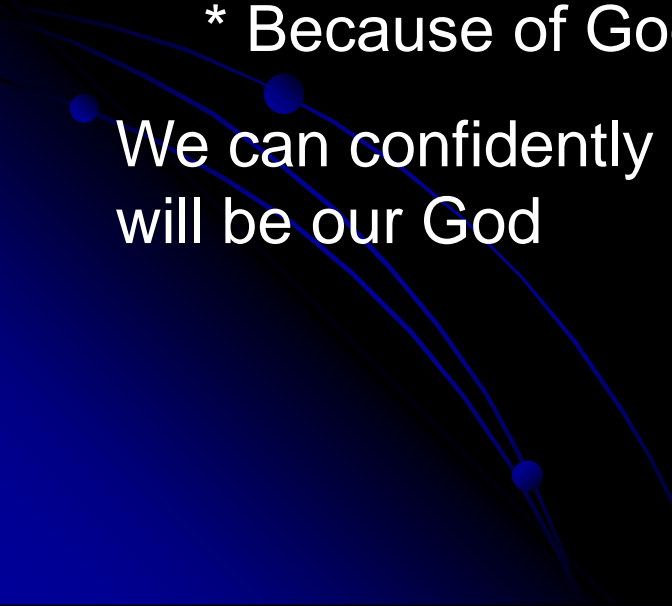
- read vs. 32-36

* Because of Who God is

* Because of How We Have Acted

* Because of God's Mercy and Faithful Love Towards us

We can confidently say – we will be your children and you will be our God



Sign On The Line

So What

1. Communion – new covenant in my blood
 - we are by participants, signing on the line
2. Review – the truth about God and His People
 - what He did, how we have responded, his grace towards us!
3. Respond in Obedience – I will live in light of the truth
 - I submit my agenda and desires to you. I choose to focus on you, not my situation.