**Q59. What is the New Covenant?**

It is the covenant by which God saves the elect, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The New Covenant was planned before creation, promised in Genesis after the fall, and formally established by the blood of Christ when the work required of Him was complete.

1. **Quick** answer round (don’t spend much time here unless it’s clear the whole group needs clarity. Don’t re-teach the lesson!):
	* True or False: With a proper understanding of Covenant Theology, “New Covenant” and “The Covenant of Grace” are synonyms. TRUE
	* When did God choose WHO would be saved—WHO He would covenant the New Covenant to? In eternity past, in the COVENANT of REDEMPTION, God chose all the individuals that He would redeem and make His everlasting people. That has never changed—God cannot and does not change.
	* True or False: Some of ethnic Israel are a part of the eternal people of God, (such as Abraham and any others with saving faith in Christ alone,) but not all ethnic Israelites are. TRUE
	* True or False: Some of Gentiles (Non-ethnic Israelites) are a part of the eternal people of God, (any with saving faith in Christ alone,) but not all Gentiles are. TRUE
	* True or False: God has two eternal people: Ethnic Israel and separately the elect Gentiles. FALSE, SEE NEXT QUESTION.
	* True or False: “Spiritual Israel” (aka the universal Church) is the one united people of God, made up of all of the elect Jews and all of the elect Gentiles that God chose before time for eternal redemption. TRUE
	* How is a person brought into the New Covenant? By God’s effectual call. Each elect person, one by one, is transferred to be under Jesus’ New Covenant Federal Headship when God the Holy Spirit causes new birth, gives saving faith, and unites them to Christ Jesus eternally.
2. Who should we regard as being in the New Covenant? Only those with **credible personal** testimony of new birth and saving faith should be considered to have New Covenant membership. This excludes those not personally testifying to saving faith and also those who claim to trust CHRIST but live lives of known unrepentant sin and DISREGARD to god’s law/truth/will.
3. Tonight, we heard: “The perfect interpretation of Scripture is provided by Scripture, by the Holy Spirit inspiring the New Testament authors to directly interpret prior Scripture and give us hermeneutic principles.”
	* Discuss as a group: Are you able to elaborate on what that means and/or how that is helping you/will help you?
4. Read Mark 3:31-35
	* God’s plan and design has been to create a diverse new family for eternity. Discuss the blessed implications of that even in the here and now. (The blessing of the “Blood-bought family”)

If you finish early, spend time in prayer.