

COVENANT IN-BETWEEN

¹ After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. ² From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. ³ And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.

I Samuel 18:1-3

¹⁶ See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.

Isaiah 49:16

¹¹ For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Leviticus 17:11

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

I. Nine steps in forging covenant Communitas

A. The exchange of coats

- * The symbol of the identity and authority of a person group or tribe.

B. The exchange of weapons

- * A Bow, knife, spear, or sword; All my strength belongs to you. (These items would be hung up and displayed in the dining hall as a perpetual reminder of covenant Communitas)

C. The exchange of vows

- * Everything I have is now yours. I am no longer my own; I belong to you. All that I am is yours forever.
- ** Your enemies are my enemies; your friends are my friends forever.
- *** If any enemy attacks you, they've attacked me.

D. The blood walk / A bull, goat, or lamb was split down the middle and separated across from one another.

- * Covenant partners would start back-to-back and walk a figure 8, symbolizing infinity, winding up standing face-to-face in the midst of blood.
- ** There they would make their covenant pledges, including curses if the covenant were broken, as well as an accounting of all their belongings.

E. The exchange of names

- * A part of your name would be added to your covenant partner's name.

F. The exchange of blood in the cutting of the covenant

- * You would cut yourself and commingle your blood.

G. The mark of the covenant

- * I would be an indelible mark left in your cut.

H. Covenant meal / Wine and bread

- * I would be in you and you would be in me, forever in perpetuity with your family line.

I. A covenant tree

- * A tree would be planted and sprinkled with the covenant blood as a permanent and eternal reminder of a covenant that would last through every generation.

J. Communitas is achieved!

- * Only now could you call someone a friend. (John 15:15; Hebrews 9:12-14,22)

[Jhn 15:15 NIV] ¹⁵ *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

[Heb 9:12-14, 22 NIV] ¹² *He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ¹³ The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! ... ²² In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*