

# Covenant of Love

Group Outlines from Schoenstatt

I give You Everything # 10

## I Give You Everything

Covenant means that we give our lives completely to the Lord. This includes our freedom, this includes our “right” to know why things happen to us. We give our lives to God even when we suffer or we do not know why things are happening. Like Mary, it means saying “yes” to God. We give him our memories, our past, our relationships, our thoughts, our entire heart. In other words, we give our lives away.

Jesus is either Lord of everything or he is Lord of nothing. He is the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega. He is all that matters. When our eyes close for the last time and the Lord calls us home, he is going to be all that matters. Is he really in charge of everything in our lives?

For example, is he in charge of our time. In the Covenant we strive to pray every day and find a moment of connection with the Lord. Do we fit our day around Jesus, or do we fit Jesus around our day? There is a big difference

For example, is he in charge of our thoughts. What goes in our minds and in our hearts says a great deal about who we are. What is our heart really filled with? What do we think about a lot? Do we have lots of thoughts about anger, gossip, material things or lust? Jesus is Lord of everything or he is Lord of nothing.

Covenant means that we turn to the Lord and say: “Lord, change my heart, change my life. Lord, I want you to be in charge of my time; I want you to be in charge of my thoughts, and my relationships. I will hold nothing back. All that I am and all that I have, I give to you.” That is Covenant of Love.

Ask yourself this question. When was the last time you grew spiritually? Can you think of concrete examples and ways you have grown this year spiritually? Are we more in love with Jesus than last year? Are we more connected to Jesus than last year? Can you prove it?

The Covenant of Love is about drawing strength and life from Jesus Christ. It is about renewing this communion with him – which is the purpose of our lives. It is a life-changing and life-transforming experience. Jesus looks at us with love in the Covenant and says: “Listen, I know you and I love you. I know the pain. I know about the loneliness, I know about the sorrows and the joys, I know the sins and the guilt. I know the holiness and the generosity. I know it all!” And he never has stopped loving you. Covenant means: It doesn’t matter where you have been. It only matters where you are going!

It’s good to remember this in the difficult times of our lives. Have you ever heard of Soren Kierkegaard. He was a very famous and popular Christian theologian. One night at a party, everyone was around him, and he was the life and soul of the party - having fun, telling jokes. All the attention was on him. But when he went home that night, no-one saw him put his head in his hands and cry his eyes out; no-one saw him take a gun and place it in his mouth and contemplate blowing his brains out. At home, Kierkegaard, was a man of “silent desperation”.

Sometimes, you and I are also people of “silent desperation”. In the Covenant of Love, Jesus breaks through and says: “Listen, I have something better for you. I want to be born again in your life. I don’t want you just to go through the motions of being a follower of mine. I want to live in you, be united with you.” He says to us: “Maybe this time, I will be born in you again for real! Maybe this time, we can truly be one, be united in a Covenant as if it was made of cast iron. Maybe this time...” Will you reach out for this gift of the Covenant, today, tomorrow, next week, or will you walk away? At the end of the day, it’s always your choice!

## Questions for Reflection

1. How would you describe giving everything in your life to Jesus Christ in the Covenant?

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