

obedience to God's will by one of the parties in behalf of the others? if so, we may properly call such a covenant a covenant of grace, whether or not Scripture specifically employs that term.

However, in Reformed Theology the covenant of grace does not pertain to the Son of God and elect sinners in the same manner. The covenant of grace as pertains to the Son is an agreement between equals, and specifies contractual conditions to be fulfilled and contractual benefits to be paid upon fulfillment of the contractual conditions. Thus the covenant of redemption (the covenant of grace as pertains to the Son) may properly be called a contract or compact. The covenant of grace as pertains to elect sinners, on the other hand, is a gracious arrangement between unequals (the triune God and those sinners He has graciously chosen), and specifies no contractual conditions to be fulfilled by them, but only gracious benefits paid for by God Himself and bestowed upon them as God opens their hearts and inclines their wills to receive them. Thus it appears that the covenant of grace as pertains to elect sinners cannot properly be called a contract. Perhaps "sovereign arrangement" would be better.

The following definition would thus appear to be more accurate than some that have been proposed in the past:

The covenant of grace is a sovereign arrangement in which God establishes and fulfills the conditions of salvation, and enables elect sinners to receive it.