In his death Jesus Christ took the old God, the old humanity, and the old covenant of command, possession and power to irrevocable death. And in his resurrection from the grave on the third day as “the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9), he inaugurated the new God, the new humanity, and the new covenant of irrevocable self-giving life and compassionate love.

Servants versus Friends

Shortly before his crucifixion, the One who constituted and repeatedly affirmed the ultimate “I AM” declared:

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. — John 15:15.
In calling his followers “friends,” Jesus Christ openly initiated the covenantal “I-Thou” relationship. Furthermore, with this utterance he was confident that “others” would reciprocally participate in the ultimate relationality of “I-Thou.”

Let us therefore “[r]ejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4)!

Endnotes

1. For the factual earthly history of Jesus Christ, see “The Historical Jesus,” Parts I – XVII, Outlook (October 2006 – October 2007).