



Our House

“The Community
of the New
Covenant”

Jeremiah 31:31-34
May 7, 2023 | Tyler Williams

commitment

relationship

διαθηκη
diatheke

Covenant faithful

bond of love

ברית

promise

berit

The Idea of Covenant

An **ancient** and **biblical** way of formalizing a relationship

More **intimate** and **personal** than a contract

More **binding** and **accountable** than an informal relationship

A God Who Covenants...

Abraham in Genesis 15

Israel in Exodus 19

David in 2Samuel 7

*“I will be your God,
and you shall be
my people.”*

A People Who Break Covenant...

- The sad reality is that much of the Old Testament is a story about Covenant failure.
- But God relentlessly pursues his people with grace and forgives them and desires to renew covenant with them...

The Hope of a New Covenant

- Isaiah's suffering servant and renewed covenant (Isa 42:6; 49:9; 54:10; 55:3; 59:21; 61:8).
- Ezekiel's valley of dry bones and God's promise of an "everlasting covenant" (Ezek 16:60-62; 37:1-28).
- Jeremiah's promise of a "new covenant" with his people (Jer 31:31-34).

Community of the New Covenant

- The promise of a New Covenant was fulfilled in life, death, and resurrection of God's Messiah and Son, Jesus Christ.
- The early church saw itself as the "Community of the New Covenant."

Community of the New Covenant

- Jesus is the fulfilment of the New Covenant (Hebrews 7:22; 8:6-13; 9:15-22; 10:15-18).
 - Initiated by God
 - Mediated by Jesus
 - Brings together those who were divided

Community of the New Covenant

- Blessings of the New Covenant
 - God's instruction implanted in the human heart through the Holy Spirit.
 - Results in a deeper experience of knowing God.
 - Reconciliation and the forgiveness of sins.

Remembering Together

As we gather around the Lord's Table as God's New Covenant people, we remember our New Covenant relationship with God.

Remembering Together

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Prayer of Confession

One: We are those who seek to live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we fall short. Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and hinder our relationship with God.

Prayer of Confession

All: Father God, you have set forth the way of life through your Son Jesus Christ, whom you love dearly. You have spoken and called to us, but we have not listened. You have revealed your beauty to us, but we have been blind. We are unworthy of your unchanging love.

Prayer of Confession

One: We now confess to you our sins. Please forgive us for the poverty of our worship; for the selfishness of our prayers; for our inconsistency and unbelief; for the ways we neglect fellowship and your grace; for our hesitation to bear witness others about Christ in word and deed; for the ways we deceive others.

Prayer of Confession

All: Forgive us for when we waste time and when we misuse the gifts you have given us. Forgive us for the wrong things we have done, and for what we have left undone. Forgive us when we have not loved you with our whole heart; when we have not loved one another as you have commanded; when we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

Prayer of Confession

One: Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good and that we have not been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us that we have not allowed your love to work through us to serve others and that we have not made their suffering our own. Forgive us for those times when instead of working for unity we have been divisive.

Prayer of Confession

All: Forgive us for when we have not tried to reconcile with others and when we have been slow to seek redemption.

One: Forgive us also for these sins that we silently confess to you now...

Words of Assurance & Pardon

One: God, the Father of all mercies, is faithful to cleanse us from our sins and restore us to Christ's image. Praise and glory be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Remembering Together

Let's remember together...



Covenanting Together

- Through the New Covenant, God has (re)formed a community with Christ both at its head and at its centre.
- And now as a community of faith, we remember our covenant together.

Covenanting Together

- We understand the local church as a covenant community formed by God and maintained by a corporate covenant with God.

Covenanting Together

“The church-constituting covenant is a mutual agreement to walk together as the people of God. Because of this mutual covenant, each member senses a responsibility not only to belong to God but also to nurture the confession of Christ in others. In short, because of Christ, the church is a company of believers in covenant with God and each other” (Stan Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*, 471).

Covenanting Together

- Our church covenant is aspirational.
 - A written reflection of the life we believe God desires us to live together.
 - A picture of what it means to be a maturing follower of Christ.

Our Church Covenant

We have been led by the Spirit of God to confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. We believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as the one-and-only true God, who has called us into relationship with himself through Jesus and into relationship with one another as Greenfield Community Church.

Now, before God, we freely covenant together to join God on mission, following Jesus in a life of discipleship as we put our hope in the Spirit's transforming work in us and in our neighbourhoods.

I will strive to:

Grow in my love for God by

- seeking God's kingdom above all else and living all of my life humbly as an act of worship
- engaging regularly in prayer and other spiritual practices
- knowing my place in God's Story as rooted in the reading and study of Scripture
- practicing responsible stewardship of the time, talent, and treasure God has entrusted to me

Grow in my love for one another by

- committing to live life together while embracing our unity and diversity in Christ
- using my spiritual gifts to build up this body of believers
- serving and caring for one another with hospitality and meeting practical needs
- maintaining grace-filled, healthy relationships with mutual accountability and a commitment to reconciliation

Grow in my love for my neighbours by

- living out the gospel of the kingdom of God in deed and word
- engaging with those in my neighbourhood and my networks
- acting with integrity, respect, hospitality, and compassion in all my relationships
- seeking justice, peace and well-being for all, especially the poor and marginalized, both locally and globally

And we promise this all for the glory of God and for the sake of his kingdom in our neighbourhoods, city, nation, and world.

We commit to reviewing and renewing this Covenant as a congregation annually.

Prayer of Affirmation

One: There are times in our lives when it is important for us to remember and reaffirm our promises and vows. In this same way, we come today to renew our covenant with you, O God, and with one another. Today we make this covenant our own, renewing with both joy and sincerity the covenant that binds us to each other and to you, our Lord and Saviour.

Prayer of Affirmation

All: Lord, as we are gathered here before you now, we commit ourselves to this covenant as followers of Christ. Help us as we together strive to love you with our whole heart, love one another more deeply, and love our neighbours as ourselves. Amen.