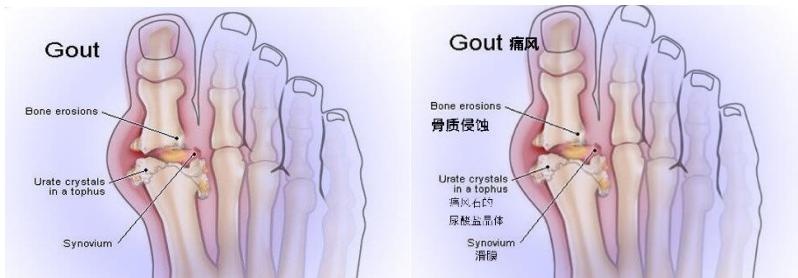


## Cell Group Campaign – Week Two: Our Church Experiencing God Together.

### 细胞小组活动- 第二周: 教会一起经历神



**How many of you have experienced a gout attack?** 你们当中有多少人曾经痛风发作过? Gouty arthritis is a common cause of a sudden onset of a painful, hot, red, swollen joint, particularly in the foot at the big toe. Gouty arthritis is reportedly the most common cause of inflammatory arthritis in men over the age of 40. I was on a missionary trip with a brother when he had a gout attack. I had to send him to the hospital for an injection because he could hardly walk and was in tremendous pain.

Don't worry, I am not giving you a lesson on how to deal with a gout attack but just as the gout attack causes discomfort to the whole body. **The body of Christ in a local church is also affected when one of us is suffering or not walking well with the Lord.** 若我们当中有人受苦或是无法好好与神同行，地方教会中基督的身体就会大受影响。

**Are you aware that you are in covenant relationship with each other the moment you become a Christian?** 你是否发现自己成为基督徒的那一刻，就和彼此进入了盟约的关系？Do you have the concept that you are in covenant relationship with a local body of believers as a Christian? **It really powerful when we grasp this truth about being in covenant relationship with the body of believers.** 领受与基督肢体的盟约关系这样的真理，是非常强而有力的。Once we understand our covenant with God and with each other then we will be able to stand together on God's promises established through the covenant for a breakthrough!!

**Week two of the cell group campaign talks about covenant relationship with God and His people.** 第二周细胞小组活动是关于神和祂百姓的盟约关系。**The covenant established by God is the very foundation of all the promises given by God for us. We need to know the covenants in order to understand God's love and for one another.** 盟约是由神建立，这是神所赐给我们所有应许的根基。我们需要明白盟约才能明白神的爱和对彼此的爱。

**1 Peter 2:9-10 (NKJV)** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> **who once were not a people** but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

彼得前书 2:9-10 (和合本) 惟有你们是被拣选的族类、是有君尊的祭司、是圣洁的国度、是属 神的子民、要叫你们宣扬那召你们出黑暗入奇妙光明者的美德。你们从前算不得子民、现在却作了 神的子民。从前未曾蒙怜恤、现在却蒙了怜恤。

The Apostle Peter was addressing the Gentiles in the region of Asia Minor who came to the know the Lord. If we are not a Jew then we are considered as Gentiles and the Jews are the chosen people of God to bring forth the Messiah.

**We are God's covenant people.** 我们是神盟约的子民

**V10 Who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.**

**V10** 你们从前算不得子民、现在却作了 神的子民. 从前未曾蒙怜恤、现在却蒙了怜恤。

God always refer to the Israelites as my people therefore the Apostle Peter mentioned here that the Gentiles were not a people whom God has chosen. The Jews are God's chosen people and they had a covenant with God. God has to have a channel to bring forth the Messiah into the earth to redeem mankind and not just the Jews back to Himself. God is a God of covenant and operates in covenant relationships.

**Eph 2:11-13 (NKJV)** Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called **Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands**—<sup>12</sup> that at that time you were without Christ, **being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise**, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off **have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

以弗所书 2:11-13(和合本) 所以你们应当记念、你们从前按肉体是外邦人、是称为没受割礼的这名原是那些凭人手在肉身上称为受割礼之人所起的。那时、你们与基督无关、在以色列国民以外、在所应许的诸约上是局外人。并且活在世上没有指望、没有神。你们从前远离 神的人、如今却在基督耶稣里、靠着他的血、已经得亲近了。

The sign of the covenant with God for the Jews was the physical circumcision of the flesh by hand.

**Gen 17:10-11(NKJV)** This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; <sup>11</sup> and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and **it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you**

创世记 17:10-11(和合本) 你们所有的男子、都要受割礼、这就是我与你、并你的后裔所立的约、是你们所当遵守的。你们都要受割礼，这是我与你们立约的证据。

This is the reason why David was so bold to confront Goliath and mentioned that about the **uncircumcised** Philistines who comes against the army of the Living God. **The Jews were operating in two parallel covenants namely the Mosaic covenant and the Abrahamic covenant.** 犹太民族活在两个平行盟约里，也就是摩西之约和亚伯拉罕之约。The Mosaic covenant is a conditional covenant that has blessings for obedience and curses for being disobedient. 摩西之约是有条件的盟约，若顺服就蒙福，若悖逆就受咒诅。While the Abrahamic covenant is an unconditional covenant

where God brought it into fulfillment without the help of men. It is the Abrahamic covenant that brought the Messiah Jesus Christ into the earth to redeem mankind from their sins through the shedding of His blood. We, the Gentiles were once strangers to the covenants of promise (both the Abrahamic and the Mosaic covenant) but we have entered into a new covenant by faith through the blood of Jesus Christ.

**Rom 2:29(NKJV)** But *he is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly; and **circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit**, not in the letter; whose praise *is not* from men but from God.

罗马书 2:29 (和合本) 惟有里面作的、纔是真犹太人。真割礼也是心里的、在乎灵不在乎仪文。这人的称赞、不是从人来的、乃是从 神来的。

**Therefore, the Christian will have the circumcision of the heart when he professes Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior. We are set apart for being in covenant with God.** 因此，当基督徒承认耶稣基督是他的主和救主时，他就要受心的割礼。

**Faith in our heart will arise when we know the seriousness of the covenant especially when it is established by God with us.** 当我们知道盟约的重要性，特别是盟约是神与我们建立的，我们心里的信心就会兴起。We will proclaim of God's faithfulness when He fulfills His covenant with us. We will also apply the same covenant commitment to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ where we call our home church.

**IMPORTANT:** It is the highest form of commitment to love when someone enters into a covenant with another.

重要: 当有人与另一方立下盟约，这是最高形式的爱。

The Christian marriage is modeled after God's covenant where we promise never ever to part from our spouse regardless of the circumstances that we face in life. We are ONE FLESH the moment we are married therefore we will face all of our lives challenges together. We will pool our finances, resources, talents, gifts and wisdom to overcome everything as husband and wife. It is till death do us part.

### **Comparison of the Old and New Covenant 旧约和新约的对比**

**OLD COVENANT (Mosaic Covenant)** God's people failed to fulfill their part of the covenant. God's laws were written on tablets of stone. God's laws brought conviction of sin. God's laws revealed a corrupt heart that resists God's will. God's laws gave His people no power to keep the laws.

旧约(摩西之约) 神的百姓无法达到盟约的承诺。神的律法写在石板上。神的律法使人知罪。神的律法显明了人心的腐败以致抵挡神的旨意。神的律法无法赐给祂的百姓能力来守约。

**The Mosaic or Old Covenant is not a perfect covenant and it is also a conditional covenant. It includes blessings and curses when one obey the voice of God and the law of God.** 摩西之约或旧约并不是完美的盟约，并且是个有条件的约，所包括的

祝福和咒诅取决于人是否听从神的声音和律法。The promise of blessing in the Mosaic covenant based on Deut 28:1-14 on the basis of obedience to the voice of God and observe His commandments. 摩西之约中祝福的应许是根据于申命记 28:1-14，就是听从神的声音，遵守祂的诫命。

**The blessings that comes with obeying the voice of God and His commandments.** 祝福来自于听从神的声音和祂的诫命。The nation of Israel will be high above all the nations on the earth. All the blessings will overtake them. They will be blessed in the city or the country side. The fruit of their body will be blessed. The fruit of the ground, the cattle and the herds will be increased. Their kneading bowl and basket will be blessed. They are blessed in their coming in and the going out. Their enemy will come in one way and flee in seven ways because God will defeat them. The Lord will command the work of their hands be blessed and their storehouse to be full. They will only lend and not borrow. They will be the head and not the tail. All the nations of the earth will call them blessed!

The curses of disobedience towards the voice of God and the laws of God for the Israelites in the Mosaic covenant were dreadful. It is exactly the opposite of the blessings. Everything that they do will not succeed regardless whether it is in the city or countryside. Their land, cattle, herd, flock, and everything that they set to do will fail and not increase including all agricultural products. They will not enjoy the fruit of their labor. There will be sicknesses, illnesses, pain and sufferings. They will be defeated by their enemies. Their family members will not do well. The nation will be conquered. They will be ashamed of themselves. 不顺服神所赐给以色列民的话语和律法所带来的咒诅是相当可怕的，和祝福是完全相反的。他们无论做任何事情都不会成功，无论他们在城市或是乡村里。他们的土地、牲畜、牛犊、羊群和所有手上的工作都会失败，土里的农作物也不会增加。他们无法享受辛苦所收成的。会有病痛、疾病、痛苦和折磨。他们会败在敌人手下。他们的家人也不会好过。整个国家会被打败。他们会以自己为耻。

**God asked them to choose the obvious choice.** 神要求他们做出显而易见的抉择

**Deut 30:19(NKJV)** I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; **therefore choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live.

申命记 30:19(和合本) 我今日呼天唤地向你作见证、我将生死、祸福、陈明在你面前、所以你要拣选生命、使你和你的后裔都得存活。

**Moses stated the most obvious choice for them and that was to choose life by obeying the voice of God.** 摩西陈述出对他们而言最显而易见的抉择，就是选择生命来听从上帝的声音。They did experience the blessings of God when they occasionally chose to walk in God's ways and the instruction of God's prophets. **They were not able to fulfill the law and obey the voice of God because of the sin nature.** They had a heart of stone and were rebellious in their ways therefore we witnessed how God had to lift His hands of protection so that they are destroyed by their enemies. 因为罪的天性，他们无法达到律法的要求并且遵守神的声音。他们拥有的是石心又偏行己路，因此我们看到神必须出手保护他们，以免他们被敌人消灭了。

**Henry Blackaby (Week 3, Day 1, Page 58)** Obedience was condition of blessing, but sinful mankind was bent toward disobedience. The old testament was faithful to set a clear standard that was always expose sin in God's people and reveal His holiness.

**亨利布雷克比(第三周，第一天，第58页)**顺服是蒙福的条件，但有罪的人类却倾向于不顺服。旧约忠实地设定了一个明确的标准，这个标准总会在神的子民身上暴露罪恶，并显示神的圣洁。

The law was a schoolmaster that revealed to us the weakness of man and our spiritual bankruptcy. Therefore, it pushed us to seek the grace of God and the work of Jesus Christ that grant us justification by faith in what He has done for us on the cross of Calvary.

**Jesus is the answer to the weakness and the struggle of men against the carnal nature, temptation and sin.** 人类对抗血气天性、试探和罪的软弱和挣扎的解答就是耶稣。

**Gal 3: 10-14(NKJV)** For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." <sup>11</sup> But that NO ONE IS JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." <sup>12</sup> Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."<sup>13</sup> Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), <sup>14</sup> that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

**加拉太书3:10-14(和合本)** 凡以行律法为本的、都是被咒诅的。因为经上说着、"凡不常照律法书上所记一切之事去行的、就被咒诅。"没有一个人靠着律法在 神面前称义、这是明显的。因为经上说、"义人必因信得生。"律法原不本乎信、只说、"行这些事的、就必因此活着。"基督既为我们受了咒诅、就赎出我们脱离律法的咒诅。因为经上记着、"凡挂在木头上都是被咒诅的。"这便叫亚伯拉罕的福、因基督耶稣可以临到外邦人、使我们因信得着所应许的圣灵。

Jesus was the fulfillment of the unconditional Abrahamic covenant so that all the nations of the earth will be blessed! Jesus' work on the cross where He became a propitiation for our sins and met the requirement of the law for us. Paul in Galatians presented to us the alternative to the law and that is through FAITH in Jesus Christ. **Jesus took upon all the curses of the law that came about because of disobedience to God's voice and the inability to fulfill the law that brought about sin in our lives towards God.** 耶稣背负起我们因为不顺服神的声音、无力达到律法标准，向神犯的罪所带来的咒诅。**ALL THE CURSES that were recorded in the Pentateuch were upon Jesus** 所有摩西五经里的咒诅都落在耶稣身上 **SO THAT WE WILL BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH and HAVE THE IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS UPON THOSE WHO BELIEVED. WE ARE ALSO BLESSED WITH HIS SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES. WE**

**ARE ALSO GIVEN A NEW HEART.** 以致我们能够因信称义，并且一切相信的人能领受公义。我们也蒙福领受祂的圣灵住在我们生命中。我们也获得了一颗新心。**We are able to yield to the voice of God through the new creation which is what the old testament people were not able to do!!** 我们能够借着新造的人降服于神的声音，这是旧约中的人们无法做到的!!

**NEW COVENANT** God enables us to fulfill our part of the covenant. God's laws are written on our hearts. God forgives sin and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. God provides a new heart that is responsive to His heart. Christians have the Holy Spirit to empower them to know and do God's will.

**新约** 上帝赐与我们力量能够完成盟约中的责任。神的律法写在我们的心上。神赦免了罪并且从一切的不义中洁净了我们。神赐下一颗新心能够响应祂的心。基督徒有圣灵加添力量来认识并且遵行神的旨意。

**Romans 7:24-25, 8:1-2(NKJV)** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>**I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. 8:1-2 **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** <sup>2</sup>**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**

**罗马书7:24-25(和合本)** 我真是苦阿、谁能救我脱离这取死的身体呢。感谢 神、靠着我们的主耶稣基督就能脱离了。这样看来、我以内心顺服 神的律。我肉体却顺服罪的律了。

**8:1-2** 如今那些在基督耶稣里的、就不定罪了。因为赐生命圣灵的律、在基督耶稣里释放了我、使我脱离罪和死的律了。

We need to remember that the original scripture has no chapter and verses. 我们需要记得原来的圣经是没有章节之分的。 It was added for easy reference **therefore we should read these passage as a continuation of what was original intended to be communicated.** 章节是为了阅读的简便而加上的，因此我们应该要连续读完整个段落，来明白圣经原本要表达的。 The Apostle Paul helped us with these few scriptures where it clearly showed us **the cross over from using the law to deal with the flesh that brings about condemnation and the ability to walk in the Spirit through the born-again spirit man that help us to have victory through our lives in the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus!!** 使徒保罗用这些经文帮助我们明白，借着律法处理肉体会带来定罪，然后转换为，通过灵人的重生、能与圣灵同行，使得我们活出基督耶稣的属灵生命法则中得胜的生命。 **The difference between the New Covenant from the Old Covenant is the heart of flesh and the Spirit of God living in us.** 新约和旧约中的不同，是肉心以及神的灵内住在我们里面。 **The new heart of flesh helps us to yield to the voice of God and cause us to walk in obedience.** 新的肉心帮助我们降服于神的声音，使我们活出顺服。 **The empowerment of the Holy Spirit helps us to overcome temptation!!!** 圣灵增添我们力量使我们能胜过试探!!! **Once we are able to yield to the voice of God and overcome temptation through**

**the power of the Holy Spirit then there is therefore NO MORE CONDEMNATION!!!**  
一但我们降服于神的声音、通过圣灵的大能胜过试探，就不再定罪了!!!

This is the very reason, we are told to examine ourselves whenever we come before the Lord's table on Holy Communion Sunday. We are to examine whether we are living up to the new life in Christ through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to live a victorious life. Have we been walking in love and forgiveness? **Have we been yielding to the flesh and the carnal man?** 我们是否顺服于肉体和血气？**We are to judge our own lives and make the necessary adjustment. It is a daily choice.** 我们要审视自己的生命并且作必须的调整。这是每天的抉择。

We are to have faith in God's covenant and His promises of what we are able to do in the New Covenant. **We are to trust and follow God wholeheartedly.** 我们要全心信靠跟随神。**Trusting and having faith in God wholeheartedly is not having 50%, 80% faith in Him but 100% faith in God.** 信靠和全心相信神并不是对祂有 50%、80% 的信心，而是 100% 的信心。

**IMPORTANT: We are to trust God that we are able to love others unconditionally because we are a believer in the New Covenant that has a heart of flesh and empowered by the Holy Spirit.**

重要：我们要相信神我们能够无条件爱其他人，因为我们是新约的信徒，有颗肉心，圣灵也加添我们力量。

It is not an unreasonable command for God to asked us to love our neighbours as we loved ourselves. We are to love our brothers and sisters whom we can see even though they might have sinned against us. **We are to show love towards one another in the household of faith so that all man will know that we are His disciples!** 我们要在信心的家庭里向彼此表达爱，众人就看出我们是祂的门徒了！In the New Covenant, we are able to leave the gift at the altar when we remember that we have grievances and been offended by someone and to look for the person to established reconciliation. We are also able to deny ourselves, pick up the cross daily and follow Christ especially in the area of Love.

**IMPORTANT: If Jesus has dealt with the sin problem that separated us from God and He has bore the curse of the law on the cross of Calvary. What is left are the blessings and we have the ability to be obedient to His voice!!!**

重要：若耶稣已经处理了使人与神隔绝的罪，并且在各各他已经背负了十架的咒诅，剩下的就是祝福了，而且我们有能力顺服祂的声音!!!

**Note: The blessings that comes with obeying the voice of God and His commandments.** 注意：祝福来自听从神的声音和祂的诫命。

The nation of Israel will be high above all the nations on the earth. **The church has inherited the blessings of New Covenant established through the blood of Jesus Christ.** 教会承接了通过耶稣宝血所建立的新约。All the blessings will overtake us when we obey and yield to God's way. We will be blessed in the city or the country side. The fruit of our body will be blessed. The fruit of the ground, the cattle and the herds will be increased. Our kneading bowl and basket will be blessed. We are blessed in our coming in and the going out. Our enemies will come in one way and flee in seven ways because God will defeat them for us. The Lord will command the work of

our hands to be blessed and our storehouse to be full. We will only lend and not borrow. We will be the head and not the tail. All the nations of the earth will witness the churches having an impact in the society through our love and good works! **When we are blessed in every aspect of our lives then we are able to go forth to bless many others and the nations with the gospel and provide practical help!!!** 当我们在生命中各方面都蒙福，我们就应该去以福音来祝福其他人和国家，并且提供实际的帮助!!!

**Henry Blackaby (Week 3,Day 3,Page 64): The measure of one's faith has a direct correlation to the measure of God's response.**

亨利布雷克比(第三周，第三天，第 64 页)一个人信仰的尺度与神回应的尺度成正比。

**Mat 13:58 (NKJV)** Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

马太福音 13:58(和合本) 耶稣因为他们不信、就在那里不多行异能了。

Once we know of the covenant rights and God's obligation then we will be able to have faith in what belong to us as a covenant partner. We will also be able to have faith in God as a church for world mission and evangelization. We will also be able to believe God with our fellow church members whenever they are faced with a crisis in their lives. We apply faith in God together!

**We are a chosen people to proclaim God's goodness.** 我们是盟选召的人来宣扬神的美善。

**The New covenant involve the body of Christ just like the Old Covenant was a corporate covenant. Remember, last Sunday we talked about being born into a family of God the moment we are born again.**

新约涵盖了基督的身体，就如同旧约是给整个群体的约。记得上周主日我们讨论到，重生的那一刻我们就进入了神的家庭。

**V9. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**

**V9** 惟有你们是被拣选的族类、是有君尊的祭司、是圣洁的国度、是属 神的子民、要叫你们宣扬那召你们出黑暗入奇妙光明者的美德。

We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and his own special people because of the establishment of the New Covenant through the blood of **Christ** that included the **Gentiles**. All of us are partaking the blood of the New Covenant from the same cup! We cannot be fighting with each other after partaking of the New Covenant from the same cup. We remember the Lord's death and His second coming as often as we drink the cup and eat the bread. He died for us so that we can live our lives with each other differently. Jesus will be coming back for His bride and that's the church. He will be coming back for a glorious church especially a church that's filled with love. The blood of the New Covenant should be pulling and drawing us closer to one another. We are closer than brothers because of the covenant relationship.

因为基督的宝血所建立的新约将外邦人纳入了盟约，所以我们是被拣选的族类、是有君尊的祭司、是圣洁的国度、是属神特别的子民。我们每个人都同饮于一杯、领受新约的宝血。同饮于一杯、领受新约的宝血以后，我们不能再和彼此相争。我们喝这杯吃这饼时，要纪念主的死和祂的再来。祂为我们而死以至于我们能够活出彼此如此不同的生命。耶稣也要为祂的新娘回来、就是祂的教会。祂会再次为荣耀的教会而回来、特别是一个充满爱的教会。新约的血应该是将我们彼此的距离拉近。因为盟约的关系我们比兄弟们还亲近。

**Henry Blackaby (Week 3, Day 5, Page 71) When your church is in a time of trouble, what do you do? Go to a healthy church? Criticize them and stand aloof?**

Because you are in covenant relationship, you should stand with them and intercede on their behalf. What happens to them, happens to you.

**亨利布雷克比(第3周, 第5天, 第71页)** 当你的教会遇到麻烦时, 你该怎么办? 去另一个更健康的教会? 因为你们在盟约的关系里, 你应该与他们站在一起, 并为他们代祷。发生在他们身上的事, 就是发生在你身上的事。

**There are obligations in a covenant relationship.** 盟约关系中是有义务的

**Biblical Example:** 圣经中的例子:

A example of covenant relationship between two friends were Jonathan and David in the Old Testament. Jonathan was a tremendous blessing to David despite knowing that David is God's chosen one and the anointed of God to succeed King Saul. Jonathan protected David from his own father and warn him of impending danger. Friends who are in covenant relationship watch out for each other and the family. It was a kind of relationship among two friends that was closer than a brother.

We need to remember that we have a common enemy. His name is Satan and he has a hierarchy of fallen angels with him. They will do whatever within their abilities to divide and conquer the church, the families and the individuals. Therefore, we need to watch out for his tricks, schemes and ways. **One of the ways for us to overcome them is to walk in love towards one another and ensure that we give no place to the devil and cohorts.**

我们需要记得我们有个共同的敌人。牠的名字叫做撒旦，牠率领着一群堕落的天使。牠们无所不用其极要分裂、击垮教会、家庭和个人。因此，我们需要警觉牠的诡计、阴谋和恶行。我们胜过恶者的其中一个方式，就是对彼此活出爱，确保没有给魔鬼和牠的大军留下地步。

**Rom 13:8 (NKJV)** Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

罗马书 13:8(和合本) 凡事都不可亏欠人、惟有彼此相爱、要常以为亏欠。因为爱人的就完全了律法。

**The other way of proclamation of God's love is to see that we are in covenant relationship with each other once we are aware that we are in the New Covenant together.**

另一个宣告神的爱的方式，就是一但我们都明白我们都在新约中，就以盟约的关系来看待彼此。

I want to bring you back to the illustration that I gave in the beginning of the sermon where the whole body hurts when we have a gout attack!

我想回头看看讲道一开始的图片，就是当我们痛风发作时，全身都是痛的！

**Romans 12:5-8(NKJV)** So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.<sup>6</sup> Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

罗马书 12:5-8(和合本) 我们这许多人、在基督里成为一身、互相联络作肢体、也是如此。按我们所得的恩赐、各有不同。或说豫言、就当照着信心的程度说豫言。或作执事、就当专一执事。或作教导的、就当专一教导。或作劝化的、就当专一劝化。施舍的、就当诚实。治理的、就当殷勤。怜悯人的、就当甘心。

We need to see that we are in covenant relationship with one another when we are in the same home church.

Let me give you an example of a recent case in ICSG.

**Example:** One of the sisters in the church notified us about the hospitalization of her brother in Singapore. The brother had an accident around 4am in the morning and he was unconscious as there were internal bleeding in the head. He didn't have any medical insurance and has no medical benefits as he was not a Singaporean who worked as a cook. The family was in a state of shock and trauma when they received the news and saw him in the Intensive care unit. It was very unfortunate that this brother who used to be attend church have mixed with the wrong company and he has stop fellowshipping and worshipping the Lord. Let me share with you how the church responded. A text message was send out via the ICSG whatsapp chat group. A prayer chain started the moment everyone heard the news. One of the sisters arranged for the family who came from Malaysia upon hearing the news to stay in the hotel. She offered to pay for the family to stay in the hotel. This sister was willing to house the family in her apartment but the family was too big for her apartment. I was notified of the crisis slightly passed 7am that morning as I happened to be in Singapore covering Ps Sandra's duty as she was having her Summer break in Iceland. I arrived at the hospital around 9am due to heavy rush hour traffic. There was another sister who went to the hospital just to be with the sister whose brother had the accident. Another sister contacted a specialist from another well-known hospital to seek for a second opinion. I went with the two ladies to the seek the second opinion from the specialist. Unfortunately, the second opinion from the specialist and the result from the hospital were the same. The brother was declared brain dead and there is nothing that the medical profession can do. This brother passed on the next day. The entire family were grieving for the loss of a son and a brother. A couple in the church in Singapore help to find out the cost of cremation in Singapore though they were preparing to leave for their holiday in Bali the next day. The church in Singapore and the cell group whom this sister used to attend while she was in Shanghai collected about RMB100k to help defray the cost of the medical bill and to have the body

returned to Malaysia for a proper funeral service. There was a financial burden on the family and it didn't help when the exchange rate for Ringgit was 3=1. The cell group in Shanghai sent a wreath to Kuching, Malaysia where the funeral wake was held. This is an example of how the church came together to love and journey with someone who has lost a loved one. It shows forth an unconditional love towards the people of the same household of faith. Those who were able to give, gave and those who were able to minister journeyed with the family. The members of the church are still following up with the family in Malaysia till today.

We are connected with one another in the body of Christ. We are to walk together regardless whether we are in good or bad times. How we live affect the lives of others especially the body of Christ. How the body of Christ respond also affects our lives. How do we encourage each other and pray for each other?

We stand together as a church when she is in trouble. Firstly, we need to take ownership of the church and identify a home church when you arrive in a new city.

Let us look at an example in the Book of Daniel.

**Daniel 9:16-19 (NKJV)** "O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us.<sup>17</sup> Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake [a]cause Your face to shine on [b]Your sanctuary, which is desolate.<sup>18</sup> O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies.<sup>19</sup> O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

但以理书 9:16-19(和合本) 主阿、求你按你的大仁大义、使你的怒气和忿怒转离你的城耶路撒冷、就是你的圣山。耶路撒冷和你的子民、因我们的罪恶和我们列祖的罪孽、被四围的人羞辱。我们的 神阿、现在你垂听仆人的祈祷恳求、为自己使脸光照你荒凉的圣所。我的 神阿、求你侧耳而听、睁眼而看、眷顾我们荒凉之地、和称为你名下的城。我们在你面前恳求、原不是因自己的义、乃因你的大怜悯。求主垂听、求主赦免、求主应允而行、为你自己不要迟延、我的 神阿、因这城和这民、都是称为你名下的。

Daniel didn't sin against God but it was the Israelites who did wrong in the sight of God. Daniel completely identified himself with the rest of the people. He prayed to the Lord for them and God responded to his prayer. He interceded for them which mean he stood between God and the people and pleaded for God's mercy for the people. He took time to stand in the gap for the people whom he identified himself with. The prayer of Daniel for the people help the Israelites to be spared from the wrath of God. The scriptures revealed to us that Angel Gabriel was dispatched from the throne room of God. **Can you imagine if Daniel had not interceded for the people of Israel? 你能想像但以利没有为以色列民代祷的话会怎样吗？**

**What we can learn from Daniel is he understood what it meant to be in covenant relationship with God and his people.**

我们从但以理身上学到，他明白在与神和祂的子民的盟约关系中，是什么样的意义。

**How do you commit to be a “Daniel” for your church in the future?  
未来你如何委身成为你的教会的“但以理”呢？**

**Heb 10:24-25 (NKJV) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,<sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

希伯来书 10:24-25(和合本) 又要彼此相顾、激发爱心、勉励行善。你们不可停止聚会、好像那些停止惯了的人、倒要彼此劝勉。既知道那日子临近、就更当如此。

Don't stop meeting in the cell group and attend the corporate worship in the church. You might just be the answer to someone's prayer. Your smile, act of kindness, a simple prayer and appreciation can really go a long way. This passage talks about every member in the church should be stirring up love and good works. Every one of us can love and do something for another member of the church.

- (i) Are you part of the community of believers in a local church?
- (ii) Are you being a blessing to the people around you?
- (iii) How are you spurring each other to love and do good works among the household of faith? Remember, it affects the whole body when one part of the body is hurting.
- (iv) How do we reach out to those who have grown cold towards the Lord who used to be in ICS?
- (v) How do we encourage everyone to adopt ICS as their home church and run with the vision of the church?
- (vi) Can the people in the world see the love of Christ in ICS?