

The New-Covenant of Life



Congregational Bible Study 2011
Week 2

Thank you for joining in us in week two of our 5-week Bible study. I hope you are excited and becoming passionate about where God is moving our congregation. I know that our community, like the community in Acts, has a body of believers who love God and want to follow Him at any cost. We, like the church in Acts, serve a powerful and mighty God who wishes for all to come to Him and to be in a relationship with Him. As we walk through this next study, pray with one another, that God opens our eyes to ways that we can do just that. By offering our prayers to a powerful and mighty God, who wishes to be in relationship with us, He will show us how we can be His beacon to the city of Fairlawn.

The New Covenant of Life

Joy Reason Number One: Jesus

Read [1 John 1:1-2](#). John gives us several clues about who he is describing. What are the clues in the verses?

Who do you think John is describing?

Why is "Word of Life" a good name for Jesus?

Read [1 John 1:3-4](#). What is the first reason John gives for telling us about his experiences with Jesus?

What is the second reason John gives for telling us about Jesus? (It is not clear whether the original Greek said "our joy" or "your joy.")

What is the meaning of the word "joy" to you? Now, look it up in the dictionary. What is its meaning in the dictionary?

With those meanings in mind, why does telling others about the "Word of Life" create joy?

Read [1 John 1:5-7](#). What is critical to having this joy of the new covenant?

** Take a moment and write down one family or person you know that needs they type of community described in 1 John and in the Acts study from last week. Begin to commit to pray for them right now.

Don't miss that from our last study, Paul tells us in Acts that there were none in need and they held everything in common. Besides their sharing of "stuff", that communality is the knowledge, actions and love of Christ. When John talks about those who live in the light and have fellowship with one another, what does that look like at church or at home and with your friends?

The definition of "fellowship" is the state of sharing mutual interests, experiences, activities, etc. How important is it for our church to be in fellowship together? Why is this important?

How does our fellowship differ from the world's offering of fellowship? How do you see us, as a church, using that fellowship to be the hands and feet of Jesus? Give three powerful examples you can think of to show the Fairlawn community that our type of fellowship is what they are missing.

Take a moment and write down one family or person you know that needs the type of community described in 1 John 1 and in the Acts study from last week. Begin to commit to pray for them right now.

Joy Reason Number Two: No Guilt

Read [Romans 8:1-4](#). Have you committed a crime or made some moral error in your life? (The crime does not have to be a big one; remember, we are all sinners and we break the law each day, but some are just seen as more acceptable than others.)

What was the worst part of making an error in mortality, or committing a crime big or small?

What does Paul say that the new covenant life gives us?

What about the message that Paul gives does the Fairlawn community living need to hear?

Dear friends, are you feeling it? Are you beginning to see where God is at work? He is at work in us. We are His hands and feet to a broken world in Fairlawn and beyond. This is a very special time in ministry at our church and school as we join together in the study of God's Word, in prayer for where He is at work and for fulfillment of our desire to join Him there as a congregation. God loves every minute of it, but brother and sisters don't miss this opportunity for you to seek after God and ask Him where you and your family can be at work with Him as well. Don't wait for our congregation to organize an event like Serve and Celebrate Sunday (SCS). You have the Good News of Jesus Christ and the "Guilt-Free Living" to offer a world that so desperately needs it. Step out in faith and see what God's will is for you and your family in these matters. We pray alongside of you for God to move in powerful and mighty ways these next 5 weeks together.