



Covenant Life Church

Newsletter #9

Our Covenant Relationship with God

Dear CLC Family and Friends,

Announcements

New Update

Beginning on Father's Day, June 21, we will be returning to the church sanctuary for Sunday services only.

The Virginia Governor announced Phase I of the reopening of Virginia beginning on May 29. However, due to the impact of the virus, our host church requested that we continue to limit attendance to 10 people during Phase I of the reopening.

Consequently, beginning June 21 until Phase II begins, we will only have the necessary CLC staff and worship team in the sanctuary to conduct the Sunday service.

We will continue to live stream Sunday services on Facebook. We will also continue to live stream Monday Night Discipleship Class and Friday night Table Talk via Facebook, and our Sunday Prophetic Class on Zoom, until further notice.

To view our services on FACEBOOK, please "Like" us on FACEBOOK at Covenant Life Church. [https: facebook.com/covenantlife4](https://facebook.com/covenantlife4)

Communion Sunday

In honor of Pentecost, we will be taking communion during Sunday service. Please join us by providing your own elements at home.

Reminders: Church Services and Cancellations:

(a) **Church Services:** Until further notice, all CLC services will occur via Facebook Live, unless otherwise noted. These include:

- Monday Night **Discipleship Class** at 8 PM
- Tuesday **Prayer Tabernacle** at 7:30 PM: The dial in number for the Tuesday night Prayer Tabernacle is: 712-775-7270; access code: 221090.
- Friday Night **Table Talk/School of the Holy Spirit** at 7:30 PM
- Sunday **Prophetic Class** at 1-2 PM via Zoom

May 31, 2020 01:00 PM

Jun 7, 2020 01:00 PM

Join Zoom

Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85255245878?pwd=Mk16bUZhNGFTMU5HVk0vOUJXMjF3QT09>

Meeting ID: 852 5524 5878

Password: 3846

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85255245878#,,#3846# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,85255245878#,,#3846# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 852 5524 5878

Password: 3846

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbspzTjVcs>

- Sunday **Church Service** at 2:30 PM

(b) **Conferences:** All conferences for 2020 are cancelled except for the September Deliverance Conference and the Women's Conference on November 13 -14, 2020.

WHAT'S NEW?

BREEZE Church Management System: We are pleased to announce that we are now using a church database management system called "Breeze" that will help members manage their personal information for church. Members now have the opportunity to have a personal church profile that provides name, address, email; allows for members to give online through Breeze so they can track their giving history and provides a church directory.

Ways to Give: You can use **BREEZE** to give or use **PayPal** on the church website or mail in your donation.

- **One-time or Recurring Donations:** Through **BREEZE** you can enable one-time giving or recurring donations using the link <https://covenantlifechurch.breezechms.com>
- **Paypal, ACH or Credit Card Donations:** Through **BREEZE** you can give using PayPal, ACH or Credit Card at the link <https://covenantlifechurch.breezechms.com>
- **TEXT TO GIVE:** You can give by texting the number: **(616) 326-3171**
- **Mail:** You can mail in your donation to: **CLC, P.O. Box 1262, Springfield, VA 22151**

Member Accounts: Pastor Andrea is reaching out to all members to invite you to create your own personal account in Breeze (if you desire) that will enable you to monitor your personal and giving history. Meanwhile, you are invited to give through Breeze as you desire, or use the PayPal GIVE command on the website

We appreciate your faithfulness in attending services through FACEBOOK and your generous donations to the church.

GROUP MEETINGS

Women's Group Meeting: The Women's Group will meet on Saturday, May 30 at 2:00pm via Zoom. Topics will include what the flood and Noah's ark reveals to us in our lives. The Zoom link is as follows:

Topic: Women's Group

Time: May 30, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84159021767>

Meeting ID: 841 5902 1767

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84159021767# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,84159021767# US (New York)

Married Group Meeting: Married Group will meet via Zoom on May 31 at 5:00pm. Topics will include Covenant and Communication. The Zoom link is as follows:

Topic: Married Group

Time: May 31, 2020 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89690068402>

Meeting ID: 896 9006 8402

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,89690068402# US (New York)

+13017158592,,89690068402# US (Germantown)

From the Desk of Apostles Jeff & Dr. Linda Herbert

Our Covenant Relationship with God

Our God is a covenant keeping God, who because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, has given us great blessings and promises because He loves us and wants a relationship with us. *Deuteronomy 7:9 states, "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments" (NIV).* We have relationship with God because of the covenant of love that He created through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. And it is because of this covenant of love with God that we have healing, prosperity, protection, and all things that pertain to life and to godliness (2 Peter 2:13).

Our covenant with God was codified through the Old and New Testament. The word 'covenant' and 'testament' are similar in meaning. 'Covenant' is a "formal, solemn, and binding agreement; usually under seal between two parties for the performance of some action".^[1] 'Testament' is a "an act by which a person determines the disposition of his property after death; it is a will."^[2]

In order to understand our covenant relationship with God, we need to first understand the purpose for the Old and New Testament (Covenant) that God made with mankind. The Old and New Testaments are the covenants by which God established with mankind to re-establish relationship with us and in so doing God showed His love by redeeming us from the effects of sin. The underlying goal of God through the covenants was to restore the relationship between God and man that was lost through the sin of Adam and Eve.

When God created mankind, He wanted relationship with mankind to be loving, trusting, and faith filled. God created man in His image, with freewill, and with the intent that man would willingly surrender to Him - a loving God who provided all things for man's enjoyment. However, when sin entered and man disobeyed God, the loving, trusting and faith-filled relationship ended. But God, in His great mercy and love, had a plan to save us and in so doing He demonstrated His great love for us. This plan was formulated in Jesus Christ and revealed through the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. The covenants not only revealed the true loving nature of God, but also revealed His purposes, promises and pattern of faith for us.^[3]

So, why are there two covenants? The first covenant that God established is called the Old Testament of the Bible. Although man willingly disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, God still

worked to re-establish relationship through a covenant agreement. The Old Testament established the law by which man was to abide in order to maintain covenant with God. Unfortunately, man was not faithful to the terms of the covenant. Man's failure to abide by the Old Testament (covenant) revealed that he needed God. It ultimately revealed that man was dependent on God and his inability to fulfill the covenant prepared him for realizing he needed salvation (Gal 3:23).

Consequently, what man could not do through the first covenant, Jesus Christ did through the second covenant – the New Testament. In the New Testament, God promised to do everything that man could not do. The new covenant was made with better promises and guaranteed by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Where the Old Testament was based on obedience, the New Testament was based on grace through faith. Where the Old revealed condemnation and death, the New revealed righteousness and life.^[4] Where the Old was in the letter that killed, the New was in the Spirit that gave life. Where the Old had a veil over the heart, the New lifted the veil.^[5] Where in the Old, the working of righteousness was the manifestation of obedience, in the New it is inward manifestation of a changed heart. Where the Old was built on the sacrifice of animals, the New was built on the blood of Jesus Christ – shed for all eternity, for all mankind.

The New Testament is made on better promises because of the shed blood of Jesus. Through Christ we are redeemed from the curse of law so that we may become the sons of God (Gal 4:4-6). The Scripture declares in Galatians 4:4-6 that *“God has sent the Spirit of His Son in our hearts crying Abba, Father.* In all of this, it is evident that God is after our heart for it is with the heart that man believes unto salvation (Romans 10:9), and all the issues of life stem from the heart (Prov 4:23). The entire work of the redemption through Christ is to win back our heart so that the Holy Spirit can tabernacle with us - in our heart - and reveal God's love and glory.

One of the wonderful things about our new covenant with God is that we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. The Holy Spirit is the wonderful gift of the New Testament, given to us because Jesus paid the price on the cross. The Holy Spirit was sent from heaven to abide with us. He is God, the Holy Spirit, The Vine and we are the branches. In Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). He is the One who dwells within us as the Comforter, and Teacher, and He leads us into all truth. He reveals to us the Word of God and makes intercession for us according to the perfect will of God (Romans 8:27). He is always with us, never leaving us nor forsaking us (Deut 31:6). When we understand that the Holy Spirit lives

in us as our Comforter, and Teacher, we should begin to reverence Him and also treat our body with care since it is the temple of the Living God. First Corinthians 6:19 declares, *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”* Consequently, we need to practice His presence in our life realizing that He dwells in us.

The Cross of Christ was very significant for all eternity because the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. The Cross marked the transition from the Old Testament to the New Testament. It closed the Old and opened the New as an everlasting covenant made sure by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 13:20-21 declares, *“Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen”* (NKJV). Because of the blood of the everlasting covenant, we are redeemed and set free from sin and death and we are made partakers of Christ resurrection life. Jesus guaranteed the terms of the New Covenant through His blood. Hebrews 7:22 states, *“by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.* The word surety means, “confidence; a formal pledge given for the fulfillment of an undertaking”^[6] We can have confidence that God will perform his promises because Jesus is the guarantee and He is the mediator of the new covenant who lives to make intercession for us. Hebrews 7:25 says, *“Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them”* (NIV).

As we submit to him in surrender of our free-will to serve Him, His resurrection life can work in us to His glory. Through His blood He reconciled us to God, restoring what sin stole. He did this because He loves us. When we understand what the precious shed blood of Jesus did for us – rescuing us from death and hell and translating us to life and heaven – then we can begin to truly appreciate the new covenant that we have with God. Hebrews 9:15 declares, *“For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.”*

Be encouraged today knowing that the Lord paid the ultimate price of dying on the Cross for us and shedding His precious blood so that we may live eternally with Him. This is why God

entered into covenant with us – to show us His great love for us in redeeming us from sin and giving us all things that pertain to life and to godliness!! What a great God we serve!!