# Sealing the Covenant 3. Deuteronomy 27:9-26 Participate in the rituals

# Being on the outside looking in

# God welcomes

## Covenant based on GRACE, not merit

## Covenant is responding to being accepted

### OT: God rescued them then called them to respond through a covenant

### NT: God rescued them through the Cross then called them to respond through communion

# God’s community

## If you participated then you pronounced a curse on yourself if you deviated

### This is not about cursing outsiders but agreeing the covenant with insiders

## God’s people agreeing on the boundaries for their community living

### This is the ‘constitution’ for the Kingdom of God here on earth

### It’s the 10 commandments in the face of their surroundings

## In a society that accepted different ‘normal behaviour’ this is God’s people saying ‘Our society will be different’

# At the centre of it is our relationship with God

## This is not a condemnation of the world and what it does, it’s an affirmation of how we will be different because we are a rescued people

### It is both positive and negative

#### We will honour God by sticking to His rules

# Spoken to God’s people

## Stop arguing and listen (9)

### You have now become the people of the LORD your God.

## Obey and follow (10)

## Everyone takes part (11)

## Everyone agrees to the new rules:

### This is how we show ourselves to be a people rescued by God

### On my own head be it!

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Being on the outside

## All of us feel on the outside at times

### Discuss how it happens and how it is overcome?

### What happens if it is not overcome?

## How do you think chanting at football matches binds the supporters to the club and to each other?

# Cursing the offender

## How does applying this passage to insiders ONLY change the way we look at the world?

## How does applying this passage to yourself ONLY change the way you look at other church members/attendees?

### If you do offend how would you like to be treated if you know you’ve brought trouble on yourself?

# Church community rules

## What rules do we have as a community?

### What written ones do we have?

### What unwritten ones are there?

## Should we add to our rules ‘cursed be everyone who doesn’t follow this rule’ and ask people to say ‘Amen!’

### e.g.s

#### Cursed be every member who doesn’t attend worship

#### Cursed be everyone who doesn’t attend the prayer meeting

#### Cursed be everyone who doesn’t attend the church meeting

#### Cursed be everyone who is offended and doesn’t seek reconciliation

#### Cursed be everyone who doesn’t take part in communion

#### Cursed be everyone who doesn’t follow the moral values of the Bible?

## Jesus gave us two rules “Love God…” and “Love your neighbour…”

### How would your attitude change if you were to add ‘And may I be set in the place of no blessing if I do not do this’ to each rule?