



HOMECCELL NOTES

DROP THE RELIGIOUS LOAD – PS BRIAN DE VILLIERS

8 March 2026

WELCOME

Welcome all members who are joining the Homecell! Icebreaker 10-15 mins

WORSHIP

Please set up 1 praise song and 1 worship song. End Worship in prayer.

WORD

Start by asking members who would like to share, what stood out for them from this week Sunday's sermon?

Ask a homecell member to read: Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG) & (NKJV)

Q: Which phrase in this invitation stands out to you most right now, and why?

A: Allow a few members to share - "Burned out on religion," "unforced rhythms of grace," "I won't lay anything heavy," "live freely and lightly."

- Jesus is not adding another rule – He is inviting us to drop the religious load and simply keep company with Him

Q: Jesus doesn't just say come and rest in isolation but tells us "take my yoke upon you and learn from me". What responsibility still rests with us?

A: To show grace to others by inviting them into this burden lifting relationship – as we learn from His gentle, humble way by spending time with Him in prayer and His word

- Any responsibility (serving, inviting, giving) feels light because it flows from relationship
- You are empowered by the Spirit to obey from the heart
- Like two oxen yoked together: the stronger, experienced one (Jesus) does most of the pulling; the weaker one (us) learns from being connected and moving in step
- We are co-laborers with Christ and take responsibility as a son and a daughter of God to expand the family business (church)

Q: We heard ps Brian explain giving under law and under grace – how do you now understand financial contribution to God's kingdom as a child of God?

A: Under law 10% belongs to God (90% to yourself), under grace you realize 100% belongs to God – and He leads you generously by His Spirit to give!

- You are not restricted to 10% but can give freely and bountifully because of what Jesus has done for you
- Gratitude for what Jesus has done for you does something to your heart which leads to an open hand
- Let's be reminded of the love that God has for us and in turn give because of a love for Him and a love for His people (the church)

Ask a homecell member to read: Matthew 5:48 (NIV)

Q: After reading that scripture, what is the immediate expectation/temptation that is put on the believer (reader)?

A: To adhere to perfectionism – an unrealistic, unhealthy, impossible standard.

Ps Brian explained “perfect” in the Greek is defined as “spiritual maturity”.

Q: How does that free us from trying to be approved in God’s eyes?

A: It takes the burden off us and puts it back on Jesus, who is already perfect.

- We can develop a slave mentality when we are in fear of not being good enough
- We don't strive for perfection to earn God's love – we rest in Christ's perfection
- The goal is maturity, not sinless perfection in our own strength

Ps Brian conveyed that striving to be perfect makes people try to hide their hypocrisy.

Q: If we no longer have to spend energy pretending we're not hypocrites, what new energy might God free up in our lives?

A: Energy for loving people, for generosity, for actually enjoying our walk with Him.

- More **energy** to build relationships with people instead of trying to impress them
- More **generosity** because you are not hoarding things to maintain image
- More **joy** in worship and prayer – because it's no longer a performance
- More **patience** with others' failures – stop pretending to not have the same failures
- More **focus** on Jesus and less with self-improvement

Ask homecell members to read: 1 John 1:9 (NIV) & 1 John 2:1-2 (NIV)

Ps Brian taught us that “forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” is written in the present continuous tense – Q: How does that change our perspective about sin and our approach to God?

A: Present continuous means “He keeps on forgiving me - we don't have to be sin-conscious when we spend time with God.

- We don't confess our sins because we need forgiveness, we confess our sins because we are already forgiven – we have an advocate!

Ask homecell members to read: Jude 1:24 (NKJV) & Proverbs 24:16 (NKJV)

Ps Brian used the handkerchief to illustrate saving grace & used the balancing pen to illustrate keeping grace

Q: What is the difference between the “saving grace” and the “keeping grace” of God?

A: **Saving grace** means you are declared righteous the moment we come to Jesus (saved for eternity). **Keeping grace** means you as a child of God can live free, protected and empowered knowing knowing can snatch you out of His hand.

- God not only saves us – He keeps us
- We can live freely and lightly because the same grace that saved us will keep us – no religious load required

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Business Breakfast with ps Aidan – Saturday 14 March – get your tickets now & invite your unchurched business community to attend!**
- **New Members Orientation this Sunday 15 March directly after the AM service for all who would like to become official members of the CRC Cape Town family**
- **Mass Baptism will be taking place Sunday 22 March directly after the AM service for all who would like to be baptised – please make sure to register your details on the link provided if you'd like to receive a baptism certificate**