



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 22 November 2015

Theme for the Year: "Out of Myself and into the Savior" (Ezekiel 14:4-6)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	70 - <i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Revelation 5:1-14
Hymn	TP 134
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 12:3-11
Hymn	299 - <i>Day By Day</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"God's Endurance and Discipline"
*Closing Hymn	403 - <i>Soldiers of Christ, Arise</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	
Announcements	* <i>Congregation standing</i>

† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen.

†† Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 am
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

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Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Christian Modesty

More Than Clothing

Modesty is one of those topics that has been discussed *ad nauseam* in some churches and it is hardly discussed in other churches.

There are those who think that they have a fairly good idea what it is. That it's about clothing and appearance.

Not quite. While modesty certainly does have applications in clothing and appearance, it is actually an attitude of heart.

So one can appear very modest in dress, but yet not be modest at all. Modesty covers a wide range of character including speech and behavior.

Instructions About Modesty to Men and Women

In 1 Timothy 2:8-10, Paul exhorts the men to pray, lifting up holy hands and he exhorts the women to adorn themselves in modest apparel and good works.

Men were to exemplify modesty. When they go to God through prayer - they were indicating that they needed God.

Women were to display their modesty. They were to adorn themselves with good works rather than flashy clothing.

This passage tells us something implicit - men and women are immodest by nature, but it manifests itself differently for each sex.

Men, generally, long to be respected. And their immodesty is shown by them drawing attention to their achievements. Prayer is a great corrective - it shows that we are needy and insufficient.

Women, generally, long to be desired. And their immodesty is shown by them drawing attention to their beauty. The adornment of good works and good character is a great corrective - it shows that we are ugly without a beautiful character.

Admittedly, this is a generalization, with both men and women longing for respect, and even men longing to be desired through their appearance.

Immodesty in short wants us to be noticed. Modesty in short wants God to be noticed.

Modesty and Its Antonyms

According to Webster Dictionary, "modesty" is "freedom from conceit or vanity."

Therefore, real and genuine modesty encompasses an absence of conceit and vanity not only in dress but in speech and conduct.

A modest person, therefore, has a focus on others rather than self; shows respect to others with his words, actions, and appearance; places the interests of others above his own; and thinks little of his accomplishments and appearance.

The opposite of modesty is self-focus. In 2 Timothy 3:1-2, Paul warned that in the last days, "*men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.*"

We see it in this day and age. Rather than cultivating modesty and humility in speech and in appearance as high virtues to cultivate; arrogance, self-confidence, and self-indulgence are promoted as strengths.

These are the character flaws that undermine all aspects of Godly modesty.

Dressing and Appearance

It is true that the Bible does not provide legalistic rules on how to dress. And that is good. Therefore, we should not impose such specific rules and standards - how high and how long to the millimeter; how colorful and how bright, to the palette.

The reason for this is because there are so many different circumstances in life. A person can dress immodestly and not be sinful. If we went to Saudi Arabia today,

we would be considered immodestly dressed. Yet we have not sinned.

Similarly, we can be dressed in a very modest bathing suit - immodest for church - but perfectly normal as beach wear.

We can also dress immodestly and be sinful. We dress specifically to draw attention to ourselves; to be noticed and to arouse desire in others for us. This would be sinful.

We can also dress modestly and be sinful. Many in fundamentalist circles take pride in their conservative dressing and judge others who don't dress similarly - this is immodesty and sinful!

Modesty must begin in the heart. And the heart is deceitful. We must guard it. We want Christ to be glorified by our dressing.

Drawing Attention to Self

The Bible has much to say about boasting and drawing attention to one's achievements.

David was judged for numbering his people - presumably because he was proud of his achievements. The King of Assyria was judged by God for his proud declaration of all his achievements.

Our speech is to reflect God's image. We should so speak from our heart that people would be able to see Christ.

Immodest speech often takes the form of boasting. It also takes the form of

criticism - others being insufficient or not good enough.

Yet, there are places for these things. In praising God for his blessings, one's achievements may be mentioned. There is no glory to God without testimony. But take note the deceitfulness of our hearts.

Criticism is at times necessary and good for the help of others. But unfortunately, many of us are caustically critical, willing only to criticize but not assist practically.

While this is hard to cultivate, one sure way of knowing your modesty or lack thereof is within the church community.

If your speech is always with grace and seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6), you are creating by your speech and vocabulary, an attractive environment. You will have friends. Others will think well of you without you drawing attention to yourself.

Conclusion

Whether we realize it or not, we are always attempting to bring glory to someone. The heart of modesty brings glory to God. The heart of immodesty desires glory for oneself.

Do you find yourself wanting to draw attention to your person by dress or by promoting your prowess? We're all guilty, aren't we?

But when we cultivate a heart of modesty, we resist the temptation to draw attention to ourselves, but to draw attention to God. ~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 26. How is original sin conveyed from our first parents unto their posterity?

A. Original sin is conveyed from our first parents unto their posterity by natural generation, so as all that proceed from them in that way are conceived and born in sin.

Q. 27. What misery did the fall bring upon mankind?

A. The fall brought upon mankind the loss of communion with God, his displeasure and curse; so as we are by nature children of wrath, bond slaves to Satan, and justly liable to all punishments in this world, and that which is to come.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (22.11.15)	Next Week (29.11.15)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Johnson Lim	Terence Lee
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	John E Tan*, Rex Sriharan*, Ian Read, Jansen Ng	Paul Butler*, Ken Hong*, David Pang, LH Chua
Usher	Jerome Ng	August Ng
Kitchen Duties	Victor Poon*, Peggy Woo, Sandy Chua	Carmel Sriharan*, Julian Poon, Eva Chiu
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>27 November 2015</i>	<i>4 December 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	LH Chua	Raymond Woo
Pianist	Valerie Ong	Evelyn Lee

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "Don't Resist God's Grace" (Hebrews 12:12-17).
3. Bible Conference. Speaker: Mathews Abrahams. Venue: Bayview Geographe Resort, Busselton. Date: 19-22 April 2016. Please register with Ken and Jackie Hong.
4. Members' meeting today after service. Members are required to attend and visitors intending to take on membership are invited to attend.
5. Retirees' Bible Study on Tuesday, 24 November at 10 am at church. Topic: "Forgiving and Forgetting." Contact Yen Fye Yap at 0419 915 874 for more details.
6. Ladies' Bible Study on Saturday, 28 November at 7:30 pm. Contact Evelyn Lee at 0403 504 186 for more details.
7. Please inform Terence Lee if you will be away in December and January for rostering purposes.
8. The Nguyens would like to thank the church and members for the support they received at the bereavement of Hung Nguyen.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
TUE 10:00 am Retirees' Bible Study	<i>General Fund - \$3,650.55. Missions Fund - \$510.00 (#503 - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$135.00 (#308 - \$135.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,295.55. Attendance - 149.</i>
WED 10:00 am Attadale Craft Group	
FRI 7:45 pm Prayer Meeting and JF	
SAT 7:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study	
SUN 9:00 am Adult Bible Class	
10:00 am Worship & Sunday School	

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$46,130.41
Outstanding Pledges	\$29,385.00
Last Week's Collection	\$135.00
Total	\$75,650.41
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$430,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$354,349.59</i>
Building Fund Account:	
Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross)	
BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969	
SWIFT: WPACAU2S	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.
 Deacons: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Terence Lee** 0418 845 617. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206.

God's Endurance and Discipline

Hebrews 12:3-11

Running the Christian race is hard because we are unfit for reasons of sin and a lack of training. To persevere, the Christian must have endurance and discipline. How does God feel toward us who aren't pressing on? God is patient and will discipline.

1. God Is Very Patient with Sinner and Believers.
 - a. Christ is very patient with sinners (v 3).
 - b. God is patient with the failures of his own people (v 4)
 - c. God is patient with our forgetfulness (v 5).
2. God Disciplines Those He Loves.
 - a. Problems in life may be a result of God's discipline.
 - b. Discipline is a mark of sonship (v 6).
 - c. We can respond wrongly to discipline (v 5)
 - d. We can respond rightly to discipline (v 7)
 - e. The result is growth (v 11)

What excuses must we lay aside? What problems and chastisement are we experiencing? If we don't like what we're reaping, we must change how we sow.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Do you like what you are reaping? How can you change the way you sow?
2. Are your excuses for not growing in Christ valid? Why not?
3. How much of the problems you experience a result of your own neglect? Can you see God's discipline in it?