



COVENANT Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 30 August 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	6 - <i>Come Thou, Almighty King</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 124
Hymn	TP 124
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 9:1-14
Hymn	278 - <i>I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"What It Takes to Be Clean"
*Closing Hymn	222 - <i>There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	<i>The Lord Bless You and Keep You</i>
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 3:00 pm
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au

Email: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Loving Our Gay Friends and Ministering the Gospel to Them

What Do Our Gay Friends Think of Us and the Church of Christ?

From the perspective of a gay person, the church of Christ and the Christian may come across very harshly against gay people.

It may be simply because of our fidelity to the Bible. The Bible condemns homosexuality as a sin and we teach it as it is.

The perception therefore of Christians and the church is that there is a hatred toward gay people by them.

This is simply untrue.

Being faithful to what the Scripture says would not cause Christians to hate gays.

Unfortunately, many Christians don't know how to act or behave towards gays. This results in avoidance, ridicule (private or otherwise), and discrimination. And this is because Christians aren't always faithful to the Scriptures.

The Bible teaches us to love all sinners. Loving them does not mean we condone their actions. In fact, loving them means we ought to befriend them and show them the love of Christ.

In their quest for consistency, some Christians may think it inconsistent to love sinners and still reject their sin. That they need to display their extreme displeasure.

But yet, this is what Christianity teaches love but not acceptance.

It is precisely because Christians do not love enough and understand enough that the gay community becomes antagonist toward the antagonism they perceive against them.

Rosaria Butterfield, author of *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*, was once an atheist and a professor. Not only that, she was a lesbian. But she was converted and became a Presbyterian pastor's wife.

This is what she said, "Prior to conversion, my experience with Christians was that they were mostly fearful people. They used the Bible as a punctuation mark to end a conversation rather than deepen it."

What Do We Think of Our Gay Friends?

The Bible teaches that homosexuality is wrong. And we need to believe that. But the issue with our gay friends is not their homosexuality.

The worst sin in their lives is not sexuality - rather, it is unbelief. They celebrate homosexuality because they are unbelievers.

In the end, they are no different from we are. They are sinners with a need for Christ. We are sinners in need of Christ.

The reason why we tend to focus so much on homosexuality is because it was a taboo for so many years.

The same is true of divorce. Divorce for many years was considered so taboo that when people got divorced, they would not talk about it.

But today, divorce is common place; yet we make friends with divorced unbelievers and reach out to them.

Christ came and he befriended the publicans, when no self-respecting Jew would.

He came and he talked to a Samaritan woman, shocking her to bits. He came and he touched a prostitute, forgiving her of her sin.

In each of these cases, he did not accept their sins, but told them to go and sin no more.

Homosexuality is a sin. But it is no worse than your sins. Just as you needed Christ, so do your gay friends.

If a gay person were give up homosexuality, and still not come to Christ, he is still as guilty before God because of his lying, stealing, and anger.

Homosexuality is not the point.

Therefore we are to check our attitude - is our disapproval, aversion, and hesitation toward them based on biblical insights or on our own personal feelings, taught by cultural mores?

The Bible teaches us to be a light where there is darkness rather than hiding our witness from those who need it (cf Matt 5:16).

We do not need to treat the person involved in homosexuality any differently from other people caught up in immorality.

Therefore, we ought to see a person, not a homosexual. The person has a homosexual problem.

Be willing to befriend and talk. Many gay people have had bad experiences with Christians. Who wants to follow Christ when Christ's people are badly behaved?

Direct them to Jesus and not to heterosexuality. The answer to homosexuality is not heterosexuality. The answer is Jesus.

The love and power of Christ are needed first to resist the temptations of homosexuality.

And when you befriend them and give them hope in Jesus, God's love is working through you.

We are not there to use the Bible as a punctuation mark to end a conversation. It is not an argument we are winning.

We are trying to win their hearts and minds by our love and the gospel.

Audacity

In 2 weeks' time, at the prayer meeting (11 Sept), we will be screening a production entitled "Audacity."

It is a short movie on how we ought to reach out to gay people; and it's an opportunity for our gay friends and other unbelieving friends to understand why we believe what we believe.

Please endeavor to be there, and also pray about inviting your friends. May the Lord grant you a heart to love your gay friends and wisdom to talk to them.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 1. What is the chief and highest end of man?

A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him for ever.

Q. 2. How doth it appear that there is a God?

A. The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but his Word and Spirit only, do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (30.8.15)	Next Week (6.9.15)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Ken Chong	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Jabez Huang
Welcomers	Micah & Hannah Chiang	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Micah Chiang, Ken Hong	Rex Sriharan, David Pang
Usher	Hannah Chiang	Hannah Chiang
Kitchen Duties	August Ng*, Merilyn Woo, Lisa Lim	Angela Yap*, Putri Harapan, Jackie Hong, Sarah Siew
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>4 September 2015</i>	<i>11 September 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	LH Chua	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Valerie Ong

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: "For This Cause" (Hebrews 9:15-28).
3. We will be celebrating Lord's Supper next Lord's Day. Please bring a dish to share at the fellowship dinner.
4. Sunday School teachers for the month of September are: Stephanie Lim, Jenni Budiman, Sandy Chua, Eileen Tay, Aliza Chiu, Lisa Lim; Evelyn Lee, Dorcas Pang; Chris Budiman; Mary-Anne Chan; Eugene Lim; Hannah Chiang; Ken Chong. Singspiration Leader: David Lim. Pianist: Nancy Lim.
5. AGM papers are to be submitted to Terence Lee by today.
6. VBS 2015 - "Jesus: Our Prophet, Priest, and King" (5-7 October). Registration forms are available at the foyer and <http://www.covenantbpc.org.au/ministries/vacation-bible-school/>. Volunteers needed. Contact Valerie at 0422 407 338.
7. At last week's ECM, the members overwhelmingly voted to purchase the church building from the Attadale Baptist Church for the asking price of \$1 million.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
FRI 7:45 pm Prayer Meeting and JF SUN 2:00 pm Adult Bible 3:00 pm Worship & Sunday School	<i>General Fund - \$3,019.00 (#486 - \$500.00. Missions Fund - \$340.00. Building Fund - \$1,555.00 (#285 - \$1,000.00, #286 - \$400.00, #287 - \$155.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,914.60. Attendance - 135.</i>

Building Fund to Date		
Starting Fund	\$54,185.68	Building Fund Account:
Pledges Collected	\$251,690.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Non-Pledged Gifts	\$268,704.82	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
Loans Received	\$430,000.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Subtotal Building Fund</i>	<i>\$1,004,580.50</i>	SWIFT: WPACAU25
<i>Outstanding Pledges</i>	<i>\$40,030.00</i>	
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>\$1,044,610.50</i>	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 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. **SK Loh** 9386 1660.