



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 15 May 2016

Theme for the Year: "What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	143 - <i>Rejoice the Lord Is King</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 23
Hymn	TP 23
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Philippians 4:1-8
Hymn	435 - <i>Lord Speak to Me</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Standing Firm in Godly Affections"
*Closing Hymn	364 - <i>Yield Not to Temptation</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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Case Studies on Communication and Conflict Resolution - Part II

Case Study 1 - Loyalty and Friendship

Peter and Benjamin, best friends from childhood, came to talk to you with a problem they can't solve among themselves.

Peter is very upset as he complains about Benjamin being close to 3 new boys in church.

Benjamin says that Peter is still his best friend, but there is no real problem except with Peter's attitude.

As you talk, it becomes clear that Peter has confronted these other boys in church.

They have become angry, tried to explain that they were only friendly with Benjamin but not trying to take him away as his best friend.

Benjamin says that there's no significant problem except Peter's imagination and immature jealousy.

Peter says that Benjamin isn't being loyal as a best friend.

- 1. What do you perceive to be the problem? Does Peter have a right to be upset?*
- 2. What do you think was right or wrong with how Peter confronted the other boys in church?*
- 3. Is Benjamin being loyal as a best friend? Why or why not?*
- 4. What do you make of Benjamin's complaint about Peter's imagination and jealousy?*
- 5. How would you help them?*

Friendship in the Bible

The Bible has much to say about friendship. God, when he created Adam, said that it was not good for Man to be alone, which is why Eve was created.

While the account speaks to marriage, it also speaks more fundamentally to

companionship and friendship. Friendship is good. Proverbs 18:24 speaks of a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 17:17 speaks of a friend who loves at all times - someone who is for for adversity.

Friends celebrate with us and they also mourn with us. When David was being hunted by Saul, Barzillai the Gileadite consoled David. When Jephthah's daughter was to be killed, her friends consoled her.

There are even best friends. David had a best friend in Jonathan. And Jonathan's loyalty to his godly friend David went beyond his loyalty to his wicked father Saul.

It is important for Christians to be close friends with other Christians. Our best friend should not be unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14, Amos 3:3).

Friendship Problem Between Peter and Benjamin

No Exclusivity in Christ

It is a good thing that Christians have close friends and even best friends. It is good that Peter and Benjamin are best friends. However, there is only one exclusive relationship described in the Bible - that between husbands and wives. Nothing should ever come between a husband and his wife.

The Bible does not speak of exclusivity when it comes to friends. And especially when it comes to Christian friendship, there must never be exclusivity. While friends can be close and even best friends, loyalty is only given to God's truth and principles.

The Problem Should Not Be a Problem

The problem between Peter and Benjamin is jealousy - Peter is jealous that Benjamin is spending time ministering to 3 new boys in church.

Because there is no exclusivity in friendship, Peter ought not to be jealous. He should follow the example of the Apostle Paul - who released his close friends so that they could minister to those more needy (Phil 2:19,25).

Yes, he may feel the pang that his friend is not spending as much time with him. But he should be happy that Benjamin is giving of himself and his time to minister to new people in the church.

In fact, Peter can be reaching out along with Benjamin to the new boys, in order to show the love of the church to newcomers.

Jealousy Is Ugly

Peter is jealous that the other boys have Benjamin's time. While jealousy may be appropriately expressed in marriage because of infidelity, jealousy in this situation is sinful. It should not be the characteristic of a Christian.

Galatians 5:26 instructs not to desire vain glory, neither to provoke one another or to envy one another. Real love does not envy, neither is it rude (1 Corinthians 13:4-5). 1 Corinthians 3:3 tells us not to be controlled by our desires.

So we see very clearly, that Peter, not having a right to be jealous was clearly

acting upon his emotions when he confronted the new boys.

His problem is not with the new boys - rather it is with Benjamin. It is an issue between friends of how much time they are to spend with one another. Perhaps if he had confronted Benjamin, he would have been assured of Benjamin's friendship toward him.

However, it is also clear that Benjamin is annoyed with Peter - for his jealousy. But just as Benjamin has ministered to the new boys, he should see this as a ministry opportunity toward his close friend - to assure him and to involve him in his ministry.

Conclusion

Peter has to repent of his jealousy and his unkindness to the new boys in his unwise confrontation. He has to seek forgiveness.

Likewise, Benjamin has to see that he may have had neglected a friend - however unintentionally - and to determine how he can include Peter into his ministry to the 3 new boys. This could lead to greater fellowship and friendship among the 5 boys.

The church is not perfect; but with forbearance, self-knowledge, humility; greater fellowship will blossom. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 66. What is that union which the elect have with Christ?

A. The union which the elect have with Christ is the work of God's grace, whereby they are spiritually and mystically, yet really and inseparably, joined to Christ as their head and husband; which is done in their effectual calling.

Q. 67. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace, whereby (out of his free and special love to his elect, and from nothing in them moving him thereunto) he doth, in his accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ, by his Word and Spirit; savingly enlightening their minds, renewing and powerfully determining their wills, so as they (although in themselves dead in sin) are hereby made willing and able freely to answer his call, and to accept and embrace the grace offered and conveyed therein.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (15.5.16)	Next Week (22.5.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Terence Lee
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Edward Lim
Welcomers	Jacob & Merilyn Woo	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Jansen Ng*, John E Tan* Vincent Chiu, Rex Sriharan	Micah Chiang*, David Lim* Paul Butler, Ken Hong
Usher	Jemima Ng, Jerome Ng	Josephine Austin, Joyce Ng
Kitchen Duties	Florence Orchard*, Vincent Chiu Rosemary Fitzpatrick	Aliza Chiu*, Hui Min Lim Sarah Siew
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>20 May 2016</i>	<i>27 May 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Ian Tay

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: "Satisfied in Christ" (Philippians 4:10-23).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "A Man of Bad Choices" (Genesis 4:1-16). Speaker - Jerome Ng.
4. Trinitarian Bible Society (Australia) Annual Public Meeting. Saturday, 28 May 2016, 7 pm, at Perth Free Presbyterian Church, 10 Alexander Road, Padbury, WA 6125. Speaker - The Rev Malcolm Stuart, Vice President, TBS.
5. Young Peoples Group. Saturday, 21 May 2016, 4:30 pm, at the Ng residence. Topic: "Tithes and Offerings in the New Testament Church." For more information please contact Jansen Ng at 0411 394 815.
6. Granny Smith Apples available in the fellowship hall. \$6 donation per bag. Proceeds go to the Melville District Schools Chaplaincy Program.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	<i>General Fund - \$5,449.80 (#566 - \$200.00, #567 - \$500.00, #568 - \$700.00). Missions Fund - \$710.00 (#561 - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$155.00 (#368 - \$155.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$6,314.80. Attendance - 161.</i>
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
4:30 pm YPG	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship	

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$78,715.47
Outstanding Pledges	\$8,835.00
Last Week's Collection	\$155.00
Total	\$87,705.47
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$430,000.00
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$342,294.53
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.

Standing Firm in Godly Affections
Philippians 4:1-9

We often live by our emotions - making every decision based on our gut feel. This is not Christian maturity. Instead, we are to live by God's Word, regardless of circumstance. This shapes our affections to be godly.

1. Standing Firm in Love
 - a. The command to love
 - b. Problems exist
 - c. Gospel obligations
2. Standing Firm in Joy
 - a. The command to rejoice
 - b. The effects of rejoicing
3. Standing Firm in Peace
 - a. The command to be at peace
 - b. The means to peace
 - c. The result of peace
4. Standing Firm in Virtuous Thoughts
 - a. The command to be virtuous
 - b. The means to virtue
 - c. The result of virtue

Right thinking and right affections drives away sinful affections; love, joy, peace, virtue replaces them, along with the approval of the God of peace.

Questions for Reflection:

1. When was the last time you were involved in an interpersonal church conflict? How badly did you behave? How differently would you behave now?
2. Do you know of people who are frequently in interpersonal conflicts? Are you obliged to help them? What are common fears in dealing with such conflicts? What are the means God has given to you to help them?
3. Do you like letting your imagination run wild? Why? Why is it hard to keep a rein on it?