



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 21 October 2018

Theme for the Year: "King Jesus Must Reign" (1 Corinthians 15:25)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	51 - <i>Jesus Shall Reign</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	2 Timothy 4:1-8
Hymn	TP 63:1-5
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8
Hymn	45 - <i>Though Troubles Assail</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Practice Advice for Young People"
*Closing Hymn	645 - <i>Saved by Grace</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

Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au

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The Reformation and Marriage

Pre-Reformation Views on Marriage

Before the Reformation took place, attitudes towards marriage were unbiblical.

The highest vocation in the medieval mind was the priesthood and since celibacy was required of the priesthood, marriage was seen to be inferior.

Marriage was seen to be merely a remedy against the sin of carnal lust. And its goodness was seen only in the procreation of children.

Marital intimacy was only a necessary act to produce children, and any act of procreation involving passion was seen to be inferior.

However, marriage was seen to be a sacrament of the Roman Catholic Church - something that added to a person's chances at salvation.

As such, any kind of divorce was seen to be unlawful under Catholic law.

The Reformation did much to change the attitude towards marriage.

Changes by the Reformation

When the Reformation took the church back to the Bible, views on marriage started to change.

Firstly, marriage was now seen to be of a high esteem. Since God ordained marriage, marriage was to be allowed for all sorts of people. Vows of celibacy were considered unbiblical.

Secondly, marital intimacy and passion were now celebrated. It was no longer a matter of just procreation, but it was for companionship.

Martin Luther said, *"Let the wife make the husband glad to come home and let him make her sorry to see him leave... We are permitted to laugh and have fun with and embrace our wives, whether they are naked or clothed... Marriage is needed not only to secure increase but also for companionship and protection."*

Martin Luther himself, arranged for ex-monks to marry ex-nuns. In this arrangement, there happened to be more nuns than monks, with one nun who was not paired with anyone.

Martin Luther married her himself. Katharine Von Bora ended up being his fiercest supporter, most helpful critic, and the greatest help in his ministry.

Thirdly, unbiblical ideals of marriage were also removed. When the Bible was upheld as the only infallible guide to faith and life, divorce and remarriage were allowed.

The Reformers taught from the Scriptures that divorce was permitted in cases of adultery and willful desertion. The innocent party could sue for a divorce. And in each case of lawful divorce, remarriage was permitted.

This was very different from what the Roman Catholic Church taught.

Scriptural Laws on Marriage

However, even though the Reformation did away with certain "canon" laws of the Roman Catholic Church, there were still scriptural laws concerning marriage, divorce, and remarriage. These must be upheld.

In today's post-modern and relativist world, the laws of God are often overlooked. Where once they were looked upon as true and right, and any rebellion against them was acknowledged as disobedience, it is very different today. Today, it has become a matter of interpretation.

And one of the areas often overlooked when it comes to marriage is the issue of mix marriages.

The Bible is very clear that true believers are not to marry those who are not believers.

The Old Testament law prohibited Israelite parents from giving their daughters in marriage to the heathen, and they prohibited Israelite men from

taking to themselves in marriage the daughters of the heathen.

In fact, it was because the godly line of Seth intermarried with the ungodly line of Cain that God destroyed the earth with the flood.

The Reformational creeds make this very clear. WCF XXIV:3 says, *"It is lawful for all sorts of people to marry who are able with judgment to give their consent: yet it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the Lord. And therefore such as profess the true reformed religion should not marry with infidels, Papists, or other idolaters: neither should such as are godly be unequally yoked, by marrying with such as are notoriously wicked in their life, or maintain damnable heresies."*

In other words, Christians are *only* to marry in the Lord - other Christians. Furthermore, Christians are not to marry infidels - unbelievers. And Christians are not to marry Papists - or Roman Catholics.

And the Confession makes it clear that infidels (unbelievers) and Papists are considered idolaters, by the words "or other idolaters."

Unbelievers do not worship the one living and true God - hence, by their

profession, their idol is self. Roman Catholics do not believe in the sole sufficiency of Jesus, but they worship Mary and the saints and thus are idolaters.

Other idolaters would not only include people in the Eastern Orthodox church, who worship icons; but they would also include all other pagan religions.

This tells us that at its heart, the Roman Catholic Church is pagan.

And thus, no Christian should give their Christian children in marriage to pagans and no Christian should take to themselves a pagan in marriage.

And this means that no Bible-believing minister should officiate or give God's blessings upon any marriage between Christians and non-Christians, who are pagans.

In this age of relativism and dismissal of God's laws, it is regretful that we forget the commandments of God concerning marriage.

And that is why it is good to remind ourselves yet again, what the Reformation wrought for us - a removal of unbiblical practices and a restoration of biblical practices.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 49. Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Q. 50. What is required in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his Word.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (21.10.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (28.10.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Edward Lim	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Putri Harapan & Dolphin Wai	Josephine Austin & Wendy Gong
Offering Stewards	Julian Poon*, Eugene Lim* Kim Leow, Johnny Orchard	David Pang*, Ethan Huang* Micah Chiang, Paul Butler
Ushers	Wendy Gong, Jemima Ng	Dolphin Wai, August Ng
Kitchen Duties	Sarah Siew*, Aliza Chiu Josephine Austin	Adeline Ng*, Angela Yap Carmel Sriharan
PA Duty	Jacob Woo	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>26 October 2018</i>	<i>2 November 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "Fear God and Obey Him" (Ecclesiastes 12:1-14).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Thank God We Can Eat Ham" (Acts 10:1-33). Speaker: Jerome Ng.
4. Church Family BBQ. Sunday, 11 November 2018, 12pm at Bicton Quarantine Park. Cost: \$5/adult and \$3/child under 12. Please register with and pay Jacob or Marilyn by Sunday, 4 November.
5. **Notice of the 9th Annual General Meeting.** Date: Sunday, 28 October 2018. Time: 11:30 am sharp. Venue: 47 Davis Road, Attadale, WA 6156. Please collect your AGM papers from Jacob Woo.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$2,227.15 (*DD - \$270.00, #826 - \$8.00). Missions Fund - \$1,110.00 (*DD - 100.00, #829 - \$900.00). Building Fund - \$600.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #617 - \$300.00).
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,937.15.
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	Attendance - 129.
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	<i>*DD: direct deposit</i>
10:00 am Worship Service	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.

Deacons: **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.