



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 24 June 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	709 - <i>We Gather Together</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Philippians 4:1-20
Hymn	TP 103:1-6, 21-22
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 100
Hymn	607 - <i>He Hideth My Soul</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Serving the LORD With Gladness"
*Closing Hymn	541 - <i>O Jesus, I Have Promised</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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Why Are There Divisions in Church?

Covenant Church grew out of division. The initial reason for our existence was a church split.

But one did not need to go through that particular division to experience division between brethren in church.

Why are there divisions in church? Justifiable divisions may be caused by heresies; but other divisions are caused by minor personal disagreements.

The Corinthian church was a very divided church. Paul acknowledged it in 1 Cor 1:10 - *"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."*

The word "division" is literally the word *schismata*. It means a rip or a tear. There was a rip in the fabric of the church in Corinth.

And Paul commanded them to be "perfectly joined together." This was a medical term used to describe the repair of a broken bone or a dislocated joint. They were torn, broken, and dislocated in their unity.

What Kind of Church Is Divided?

What kind of church was the Corinthian church? It was a church filled with believers.

It is not true that where divisions are, there must be unbelievers.

The Corinthian church was filled with saved people. They had experienced the saving grace of God in their lives when they believed in Christ (1 Cor 1:4). This is why Paul called them *"saints"* (1 Cor 1:2).

And a number of the conversions were extraordinary.

Crispus, the head guy at the synagogue, heard the gospel and believed (Acts 18:8). After he believed, he was baptized by Paul (1 Cor 1:8).

When Crispus believed, another man headed the synagogue - Sosthenes. And he brought a complaint against Paul to the authorities (Acts 18:12-17).

But eventually, even Sosthenes became a believer and a companion of Paul (1 Cor 1:1).

It was a church that was also very well taught. They were *"enriched in all learning and knowledge"* (1 Cor 1:5).

Paul spent over 1 1/2 years in Corinth. There, he taught the church every day (Acts 18:11).

He had with him 2 companions who were very well-versed in the Word - Aquila and Priscilla. They had a ministry to a man called Apollos. They taught him and he in turn taught others (Acts 18:24-28).

It was a church filled with gifts. 1 Cor 1:7 says that of all the churches, she was the most gifted. The Christians were serving by teaching, helping, giving, etc.

Yet, they were very divided.

A church filled with sinners who were made saints by grace, and well-taught by the Word of God, and actively serving Christ can be a very divided church. And that can lead to disastrous results.

In the Anglo-French war, the British and French fought in the English Channel. Two battleships met in the night and began to attack each other. In the conflict, crewmen were severely wounded, and both vessels were damaged. As daylight broke, the sailors discovered that both ships were English! How could they fight the enemy when they fought one another?

Unfortunately, this happens in many churches and the devil gains ground.

How Does a Church Become Divided?

They were divided because they were disunited in thought and purpose.

Paul had to exhort them *"to be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment"* (1 Cor 1:10b).

In other words, they were not agreed on what they should do, and how they should do it. That is frequently the case in churches.

While we may have the same mind when it comes to God's glory, God's kingdom, and God's people, we will not always be agreed on the direction and the way we do things. Such disagreement will lead to division and contention.

However, when the way to move forward is to have the mind of Christ, there will be less division. Christ submitted himself to his Father. He taught his disciples to submit mutually to one another.

They were also divided because of gossip.

In fact, Paul heard the news of the division in Corinth because some people in the church passed on information.

"For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you" (1 Cor 1:11).

Chloe and her family went to report it to Paul. You can be sure she and her family were also free with their remarks to others. And here, Paul outed her and her family to the congregation.

But Chloe was not the only culprit. Everyone in the church was involved. *"Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ" (1 Cor 1:12).*

They were divided because of a party spirit. And this party spirit was so bad that people were siding with different individuals.

There was a Paul party, a Cephas party, an Apollos party, and even a Christ party for those who were tired of aligning themselves to men, but were still aligning themselves nonetheless.

It was so bad that there were contentions. There were fights! Whether they were physical altercations, or verbal assaults, or non-verbal cold war; there were fights.

How Does a Church Recover from Divisions?

The only way that a church can recover from her divisions is to look to Christ - his humility, his death, and his glory.

Paul asked them an important question - *"Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" (1 Cor 1:13).*

There were divisions because they were looking to men. Because they sided with certain men and despised other men, there were fights.

They should have looked only to Christ - who was crucified for them and by his death washed them of their sins.

They should not have sided with Paul. Neither should they have sided with anyone else.

If people looked more at the crucified Christ and his character, to emulate him, we would be less contentious.

If we looked at his death, and how we were washed by him, we would be less cantankerous.

But when we side with men, there will always be divisions.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 27. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (24.6.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (1.7.18)</i>
Speaker	Khawl Ro Kim	Ron Nugent
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Elizabeth Huang	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Tee Xuan & Julian Poon	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	Paul Butler*, David Pang* Ken Hong, David Lim	Eugene Lim*, Ethan Huang* Micah Chiang, Ian Read
Ushers	Josephine Austin, Joyce Ng	Dolphin Wai, Jerome Ng
Kitchen Duties	Carmel Sriharan*, Helen Wong Meryl Woo	Jemima Ng*, Florence Orchard Val Withnell, Vincent Chiu
PA Duty	Joel Chua	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>29 June 2018</i>	<i>6 July 2018</i>
Facilitator	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Nancy Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. We will be celebrating Lord's Supper next Lord's Day. Please bring a dish to share at the fellowship lunch.
3. We welcome Rev Khawl Ro Kim to our pulpit today.
4. Next week's speaker is Rev Ron Nugent. Message: "The Fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23).
5. Next week's Junior Worship message: "The Fiery Holiness of God" (Acts 4:36-5:11). Speaker: John Tan.
6. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 26 June 2018, 10 am. Message by Pastor Mark: "Characteristics of the Cult Mind". Potluck lunch after meeting.
7. Pastor Mark Chen will be part of a commission of ministers to Ebenezer Bible-Presbyterian Church from 28 June to 4 July 2018. Please pray for their ministry and the church.
8. Daily Manna & Daily Manna Junior (Jul-Sep 2018) are available in the foyer.
9. Visitation this week by Elder Jimmy Orchard and Deacon Johnson Lim.

Appointments for the Week

TUE	10:00 am	Retirees' Bible Study
WED	10:00 am	Craft Group
FRI	7:30 pm	CBI & Prayer Meeting
SAT	4:00 pm	YPG Outing
SUN	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$3,250.10 (*DD - \$200.00, #797 - \$31.75). Missions Fund - \$971.00 (*DD - 100.00, #798 - \$500.00, #799 - \$201.00). Building Fund - \$850.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #592 - \$550.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$5,071.10. Attendance - 141.

*DD: direct deposit

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.