



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

**Order of Worship — 7 July 2019**

**Theme for the Year: "Strength in Weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9)**

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	Psalm 147
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Corinthians 11:17-34
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	127 - <i>The Savior of the World</i>
Hymn	339 - <i>Glory to His Name!</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 11:1-15
Hymn	601 - <i>Lead On, O King Eternal</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Angels of Light"
*Closing Hymn	605 - <i>Dare to Stand</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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## A Celibate Gay Christian? A Denomination Decides

### *Understanding Sin, Salvation, and Inward Change*

All Bible-believing Christians believe that homosexuality is a sin. The Bible states it and we believe it.

All of us are sinners - the sin of homosexuality may be more taboo in society than the sin of covetousness - but both are sins (Romans 3:23).

The sin of covetousness will send you to hell just as quickly as the sin of homosexuality.

But just as Jesus looked upon the rich young covetous ruler with love, Jesus showed mercy to the woman who was caught in adultery.

Therefore the Christian church is to love all sinners, believing that only Jesus can save them (John 3:16, Romans 5:8).

And as Christians - redeemed from our sins - we will continue to struggle with our sins. The redeemed thief will continue to struggle with the temptation to steal. The redeemed homosexual will continue to struggle with the temptations to commit homosexual sin (1 John 1:8).

But the sins do not define us anymore. We are Christians - sinners saved by grace. And we live our lives in Christ, receiving daily grace to have victory over our sins (1 John 3:6-7).

The Bible tells us that the heart intention is just as deadly as the outward sin. If you lust in your heart, you have committed adultery. If you have hated in your heart, you have committed murder.

So the Christian is not only to abstain from the outward sin, but he is to change inwardly. He has grace from God to change. He is not what he once was. He is a new creation in Christ (2 Cor 5:17).

Before he was saved, he was gay. He identified as gay. He committed homosexual sins and gave in to homosexual desires.

After he was saved, he is a Christian. He is not gay - because God has redeemed him from his homosexuality. But he is a

Christian who may still struggle with homosexual temptations and sins.

Will he be tempted? Yes, just like other Christians are tempted. Will he at times give in to temptations? Yes, just like other Christians give in.

Can he be transformed that he no longer commits homosexual sins? Yes, just like other Christians are transformed - and this may take a life time.

Might he never be completely free from his temptations? Yes, just like other Christians may be tempted to commit sin for a life time, he may never be free from his homosexual temptations. Only when he is in heaven is he completely free. While he is on earth, he will live by faith.

Unfortunately, not everyone subscribes to this.

### *Disagreements in Conservative Presbyterianism*

Last week the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America met. One of the things they discussed was the issue of homosexuality and orientation.

This is a conservative Bible-believing denomination. They don't ordain women, they affirm the inerrancy of the Scriptures. They condemn abortion. And they do not affirm homosexual relationships.

But a year ago, one of their churches hosted a conference, called "Revoice," to defend the fact that Christians can identify as gay and yet still live celibately.

Part of the purpose of that conference was to "*encourage, support, and empower gay, lesbian, and other same-sex attracted Christians so they can experience the life-giving character of the historic, Christian sexual ethic.*"

They believe that adopting a gay or transgender identity is not inconsistent with God's holy purposes in creation or salvation. They believe that some are born gay, remain gay - but as Christians, simply have to abstain from immorality.

It is therefore alarming that parts of the denomination are no longer taking as biblical a stance as the others.

Why is their stance wrong?

Firstly, there is no such thing as a gay Christian, anymore than there is such a thing as a lying Christian.

There are Christians who struggle with the sins of homosexuality and lying - but there is no such thing as a gay Christian or a lying Christian.

Secondly, to teach that it is not sinful for a Christian to continue to identify with being gay even though he does not commit homosexual sins is wrong.

Living celibately is not the goal of Christianity. Transformation and salvation are the goals of Christianity. Not everyone will be fully transformed before they die. But we will all experience victory over sin.

Can a Christian who struggles with homosexuality be delivered from that sin and tendency? Yes. Can they marry and have fulfilling and Christ-honoring marriages? Yes. Will they struggle at times with homosexual temptation? Yes, just as Christians struggle with adulterous thoughts.

We do not celebrate or defend indwelling sin. The tendency is to be hated along with the actual sin.

#### *The Power of Presbyterianism*

Thankfully, despite this divide in the denomination, the General Assembly voted in its most recent meeting to reject the teachings of "Revoice" and to adopt the Nashville Statement - a statement crafted by the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.

In articles 7 and 8, the following is written:

#### *Article 7*

*WE AFFIRM that self-conception as male or female should be defined by God's holy purposes in creation and redemption as revealed in Scripture.*

*WE DENY that adopting a homosexual or transgender self-conception is consistent with God's holy purposes in creation and redemption.*

#### *Article 8*

*WE AFFIRM that people who experience sexual attraction for the same sex may live a rich and fruitful life pleasing to God through faith in Jesus Christ, as they, like all Christians, walk in purity of life.*

*WE DENY that sexual attraction for the same sex is part of the natural goodness of God's original creation, or that it puts a person outside the hope of the gospel.*

This is heartening to hear. It means that the denomination has decided and that each congregation has to abide by the decision and no longer teach anything else that is different. If they do, they will be removed.

#### *Conclusion*

The Bible is very clear in its teaching on human sexuality. We are all sinful and in need of salvation. And even as Christians, we will struggle with these sins. But these sins do not identify us.

While disagreements will exist in conservative denominations, decisions made for the whole body will always affect every congregation.

And while it could have gone the other way, there is reason to give thanks that it did not. And that God works in the multitude of counselors. ~ Pastor



## **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Q. 106. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

A. In the sixth petition, which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, we pray, that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

## Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (7.7.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (14.7.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	John Barlow
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Jairus Wong
Welcomers	Yen Fye & Angela Yap	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	David Lim, Paul Butler Micah Chiang, Ken Hong	Jacob Woo, Johnny Orchard Eugene Lim, John Chandra
Ushers	Faith Chiu, Joyce Ng	Josephine Austin, Rebecca Lee
Kitchen Duties	Eileen Tay*, Putri Harapan Ida Lee, Jemima Ng	Nancy Lim*, Sarah Siew Andressa Carvallo
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ian Tay
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>12 July 2019</i>	<i>19 July 2019</i>
Chairman	In Recess	Jansen Ng
Pianist		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. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Please spend some time in quiet meditation and self-examination to prepare yourself to partake of the elements in the Sacrament.
3. The Lord's messenger for next Lord's Day is Pastor John Barlow. He will be speaking on "What Does God Require of Us?" (Matthew 25:31-46).
4. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior (July-September 2019) are available in the foyer.
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<b>Appointments for the Week</b>		<b>Last Lord's Day Tithes &amp; Offering, &amp; Attendance</b>
WED-SAT	Teens Retreat	General Fund - \$2,185.50 (DD - \$275.00, #873 - \$11.00, #876 - \$170.00). Missions Fund - \$630.00 (DD - \$100.00, #872 - \$400.00, #874 - \$20.00). Building Fund - \$10,400.00 (DD - \$400.00, #648 - \$10,000). Total Tithes & Offering - \$13,215.50. Attendance - 119.
SUN 9:00 am	Sunday School	
10:00 am	Worship Service	
		*DD: direct deposit

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.  
**Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.