



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 8 September 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	Insert – <i>Worthy of Worship</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Romans 8:18-28
Hymn	609 – <i>God Will Take Care of You</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Hymn	390 – <i>Jesus Paid It All</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"What Is Your Thorn?"
*Closing Hymn	55 – <i>God Moves in a Mysterious Way</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
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Parents, Require Obedience from Your Children

A group of parents with young children has been meeting for the past 3 months to watch "Shepherding a Child's Heart" lectures by Dr Tedd Tripp.

One of topics often discussed is how parents can balance discipline and grace.

Parenting is a tough business. Both parents and children are sinful. They are defiant and we fail in requiring obedience from them. Or we fail by requiring obedience to our sinful will.

When I was on holiday, I attended a conference where the speaker spoke about child rearing and obedience. Questions were raised about how modern parents struggle with requiring obedience from their children unlike their parents before them.

After that conference, some minister friends circulated a helpful article by John Piper, with the same title as this article. I found it helpful and I will share points from it. I believe it would especially help parents with young children. ~ Pastor

Problem Identified

Many children do not listen to their parents and there are no consequences for their disobedience. After a few reminders, parents may resort to bribes rather than discipline to obtain compliance.

This can have devastating consequences. A young teen was shot to death in California in 2013. He was mistaken to have an assault rifle, when he had a toy gun. But despite the police instructing him to put down the gun several times, he turned it on them. Assuming he heard the instructions, why did he disobey proper authority?

It is troubling that many parents do not require their children to obey the orders of others in authority. They are training their children to be shot by police.

It is tiring for parents. But what do you do with a persistently defiant child?

What Does the Bible Say?

Firstly, parents must require obedience from our children because they are commanded by God to obey their parents.

Ephesians 6:1 instructs children to obey their parents in the Lord - it is right! If God has

required this, the instruction is for us to require obedience from them. We are to train our children to obey. If we do not, our children are not trained to obey the commands of God.

Secondly, obedience to God's laws is right under the gospel.

The Christian church is a household under Christ. And Christ is king. Just as the church is required to obey Christ, those in the Christian household are required to obey their parents in the Lord.

Thirdly, it is possible to require obedience of children.

Our children are not bigger than we are. Our children are not stronger than we are. Our children are not smarter than we are. Our children do not know more of the Bible than we do.

When our little children want to dash out into the road, or stick paper clips into electric sockets, or choose what they want to eat - we use our authority to prevent them. We bend them to our wills. Similarly, parents have other means such as deprivation of privileges to require obedience of their older children.

Fourthly, requiring obedience in small things at home makes obedience possible in public on more important things.

Why are children out of control in public? Why do they defy the authority of others? It's because they have not been taught to obey at home. Sometimes we parents are tired and don't want to battle on things that seem inconsequential. Sometimes it is easier to do what we require of the child, rather than spending time to instruct the child to do it. But this trains the child to think that obedience is optional.

Fifthly, the effort it takes to require obedience is worth it.

Requiring obedience takes energy - both physically and emotionally. All parents know this. And sometimes it's easier to let the child have his way. But this is disobedience on our parts.

And this leads to uncontrollable children who do what they want, because parents have become tired or indulgent. They learn that

they can get their way and they will often pit their parents against one another.

Proverbs tells us that foolish children bring grief to their father and bitterness to the one who gave birth to them.

Sixthly, requiring obedience in a Biblical way corrects our dysfunctional ways of parenting

We all come from different backgrounds - we may come from homes where there is only passivity in parenting; or homes where there is anger. And we either adopt what we have experienced or we react against them. But it is important not to swing to either - but to adopt what the Bible teaches - a loving discipline and requirement of obedience that is patient and firm and grounded upon Christ.

Seventhly, requiring obedience God's way leads to a joyful obedience.

The gospel is something to be believed in. God commands the obedience of faith. And children need to learn obedience if they are to obey the call of the gospel. A life in Christ, is a life of obedience to him. It is loving to require obedience because it sets a pattern of obedience to Christ.

Eighthly, requiring obedience of children will make them happier.

"Laissez-faire parenting does not produce gracious, humble children. It produces brats. They are neither fun to be around, nor happy themselves. They are demanding and insolent. Their "freedom" is not a blessing to them or others."

Ninthly, requiring obedience is not requiring perfection.

Not every disobedience is dealt with the same way by God. He doesn't always punish.

Some acts of disobedience are noted, others are scolded, and yet some others are ignored. But this does not mean that God does not require obedience. He takes his time. Children should be taught that God is not only a consuming fire, but that he is patient and slow to anger.

Parenting is not easy. But there is divine grace to do it.

The full article can be found at Desiring God Ministries.

On 31 August 2019, some older folks of the congregation were hosted to afternoon tea by the teens and juniors at church. Here is a brief report by Dulcie Keen.

On chatting about the afternoon tea, we all agreed that a lovely afternoon was provided and enjoyed by everyone present. The young people visited from table to table asking questions related to our life experiences, language skills, hobbies, pet ownership, school days, birth places and more, then shared with us their own stories of same.

Writing skills and order taking worked together to produce tasty sandwiches; cups of tea and coffee; scones, jam, and cream - all of which were brought to tables by the team of young hosts who had welcomed all guests to this occasion. Then a lovely rendition by two violinists playing "Amazing Grace" bought to a close an afternoon of sharing pleasure and fellowship for all.

Thank you to all who gave their Saturday afternoon to make this a welcoming friendship event.



Catechism for Younger Children

22. In what condition did God make Adam and Eve? He made them holy and happy.
23. What covenant did God make with Adam? The covenant of life.
24. What is a covenant? A relationship that God establishes with us and guarantees by his word..

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (8.9.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (15.9.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Jairus Wong
Welcomers	Putri Harapan & Rebecca Lee	Johnny & Lydia Orchard
Offering Stewards	John Tan, David Lim Ken Chong, Steven Lim	Chris Budiman, David Pang Johnny Orchard, Sharon Sriharan
Ushers	Josephine Austin & August Ng	Jerome Ng & Putri Harapan
Kitchen Duties	Jemima Ng, Addressa Carvallo Eileen Tay	Aliza Chiu, Debbie Blake Ida Lee
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>13 Sep 2019</i>	<i>20 Sep 2019</i>
Chairman	Jacob Woo	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: "Paul's fears for the Church" (2 Cor 12:11-21).
3. Ministry reports for ACM 2019. Please submit by 1 October 2019 - email Jacob Woo (jacob.woo[at]gmail.com).
4. Ladies Fellowship: Sunday 29th September at 12:30pm. Lunch and continuation of the DVD "How People Change". Please bring a dish to share. Ladies of all ages welcome! Please see Sis Wendy for more details.
5. After completing a study on Joshua, the CBI will study the book of Judges at the Friday Night Prayer Meeting.
6. Cottage Meeting: Saturday, 14 September 2019 at 5 pm for dinner and Bible Study at Budiman's residence. All ages welcome. Please see Pastor Mark for more details.

Appointments for the Week

FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting

SUN 9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2,049.75 (#885 - \$50.00 ET - \$200.00)
 Missions Fund - \$500.00 (ET - \$400.00)
 Building Fund - \$400.00 (ET - \$400.00)
 Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,949.75.

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 118.