



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 1 December 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	243 – <i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Zechariah 13:1-9
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	266 – <i>There Is a Fountain</i>
Hymn	423 – <i>Redeemed</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Job 8:1-22
Hymn	HCG - <i>Psalms 89b</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Round 2: Fight"
*Closing Hymn	439 – <i>Now I Belong to Jesus</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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Being Led by Your Feelings or by Christian Duty?

Sometimes we don't feel like doing things which are right. At other times we rely on our feelings instead of fact.

Have you ever said the following? "I don't want to pray because I don't feel in the mood." "I don't like to sing because I don't feel close to God." "I can't forgive her because she's hurt me over and over again." "I feel he has ulterior motives." "I want a divorce because I don't love him anymore."

So many of us rely on our feelings instead of fact. While feelings are important in our Christian life, very often, it is pitted against duty. Religious affection is vital - the heart is important. However, it is not the driving force of our religion - rather faith and fact drive our religion.

Feelings Often Lag Behind

I'm not a tall man. But next to my daughter, I am tall. When we go for walks, she will naturally lag behind. This is unfortunately the case with many us when it comes to our religious feelings.

They lag behind our knowledge and practice. We may know a lot, but feel very little. We may perform our Christian duties, but have no heart in doing them.

But feelings are important. This is why the Psalmist calls us to taste and to see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8). This is also why God despises religious duty without religious feeling. Jesus said that the one who *loved* him would obey his commandments (John 14:15).

But what if we don't want to perform our duties because our feelings haven't caught up?

We still have to perform our duties, and ask the Lord for help for our religious affections to catch up.

You see, Paul didn't wait for husbands to love their wives before he commanded husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25). Loving duty requires husbands to sacrifice for their wives.

And sometimes the heart lags behind. But if we invest in something and make it our treasure, our heart will be there also.

There are many couples who marry because their marriages are arranged. And they learn to love one another.

Similarly, Paul commanded the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord. Paul himself rejoiced. But Paul was in prison when he wrote those words. He was able to rejoice, not because of his feelings - but because he had learned to be content in Christ. His feelings caught up with his faith.

Even in our conversion, faith preceded feeling. Jesus taught Nicodemus that it was the Spirit that a person was regenerated independently of himself, by the Spirit (John 3:8). So a person does not need to wait to experience some religious feeling before putting his trust in Jesus.

Feelings are important, but they do lag.

So obedience to God is not conditioned upon our feelings. A husband must love his wife even though he feels angry towards her. We must pray even though we feel hypocritical doing it. You see, a duty may be performed hypocritically - however, it is never hypocritical to perform a duty.

So a person must perform his duty and pray that the Lord would give him grace to love doing it.

Therefore, we must not allow feelings to drag us down when it comes to our religious duties. We must sing - and even though we may not feel the joy - we ask God for help to understand what we sing and to sing with joy.

Feelings Usually Run Ahead

I'm not a tall man. And when I walk with those taller than me, they walk faster - and sometimes way faster. Feelings can sometimes run ahead of us.

A husband may love his wife so much that he does not guide her. Instead, he feels he must give into her and let her

lead because he wants to give her what she wants. This is not biblical love. This is an unbiblical love.

Similarly, a father may love his son so much that he gives his son whatever he wants - sweets and dessert. But this is not biblical love. This is an unbiblical love.

And for many, emotions and excitement are misunderstood as being religious affections. This is very true of many Christian revivalist movements - where people seek a rush through the worship, which can be misinterpreted as a closeness to God. This happened regularly in the Second Great Awakening.

So alarmed by this were several pastors, it led one to write - "Millions of souls are in hell because they were unable to distinguish the elevation of animal feelings from general, genuine religious affections" (RL Dabney).

But there is a darker side to a feelings led religion. It leads to disobedience even in a Bible-believing church. Euodias and Syntyche were co-laborers but they had a falling out. Paul had to exhort them to be of the same mind in the Lord. He was telling them to resolve their conflict rationally and according to Christian principles - and not to let their feelings dictate their relationship.

Similarly, we may be so bitter with a person that we become unforgiving. But Jesus told Peter that our forgiveness must be limitless - 70 times 7. Hence, if a person who has offended us over and over comes in repentance, we must forgive even though he has defaulted on his repentance many times. We may not

feel like forgiving because we are suspicious. We let feelings dictate our duty.

Instructing Our Feelings

God designed our emotions to be gauges, not guides. They're meant to report to us, not dictate us. This is why the Bible tells us to instruct our feelings and to control them.

Ephesians 4:26 says, "*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.*" This means there is an anger which is right, but there is also a sinful and lasting anger. And we are not to allow that sinful anger to dictate us.

Proverbs 25:28 speaks of self-control - and a man who has none is like a city which opens itself for destruction.

Conclusion

God has made us as people who have feelings. Our religious affections can lag behind but that does not mean we don't perform our duties. But our fleshly affections can run ahead - and that can lead to many problems.

May God help us that we may be aware of what feelings can do - that we may be careful to strive towards following the Word as objectively as possible - and to reform our feelings. ~ Pastor

Catechism for Younger Children

49. Did Jesus ever sin? No. He lived a sinless life.

50. How could Christ suffer? Christ, the Son of God, became a man so that he could obey and suffer in our place.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (1.12.2019)</i>	<i>Next Week (8.12.2019)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Ian Tay	Jerome Ng
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Yen Fye & Angela Yap
Offering Stewards	Jansen Ng, Rex Sriharan John Tan, Faith Chiu	Yen Fye Yap, John Chandran Sharon Sriharan, Micah Chiang
Ushers	Sharon Sriharan & Jemima Ng	Wendy Gong & Jesslyn Leow
Kitchen Duties	Jenni Budiman, August Ng Helen Wong, Peggy Woo	Grace Wang, Siew Kim Chandran
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	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. Children's Sunday School is in recess until late January 2020. Adult Bible Class is ongoing.
4. Next week's message: "Round 3: Fight" (Job 11:1-20).
5. **Church Family BBQ**, 12pm today at Bicton Quarantine Park.

Appointments for the Week

SUN 9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2089.65 (ET - \$200.00)

Mission Fund - \$100.00

Building Fund - \$300.00 (ET - \$300.00)

Total Tithes & Offerings - \$2489.65

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 113.