



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 11 November 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	40 - <i>Stand Up, and Bless the Lord</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Philippians 2:1-11
Hymn	TP 133
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	1 Corinthians 12:4-31
Hymn	224 - <i>I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Your Place in Church"
*Closing Hymn	221 - <i>The Church's One Foundation</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

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Endeavoring to Keep the Unity of the Spirit

In a family, there is love. However, there will always be problems encountered. Sometimes the issues are small - a misunderstanding or a misspoken word. But what starts small may become large - especially when there's no clarification, no coming together, no forbearance.

But sometimes the issues can be very large - like unfaithfulness, abuse, or rebellion. This can lead to catastrophic results. But when things are frayed, smaller things are aggravated.

The local church is the local expression of Christ's kingdom on earth. It is a family of redeemed people who are still in the process of sanctification.

He commands them to grow in unity and in holiness. How can this be fostered and encouraged?

Unity Already Exists

In Ephesians 4, Paul gave the command to foster unity. In verses 1-3, he beseeched them as the prisoner of the Lord to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The church was comprised of different people - Jews and Gentiles. The Jews were very prickly and fastidious. The Gentiles were the opposite - and they struggled with their past pagan immorality. But they were all saved and one people.

There was already a unity in Christ - who had broken down the wall between them. And keeping that unity was their calling.

And it was to be achieved by subduing themselves - to be lowly in mind, to be meek, to forbear one another.

When we get into conflicts, we often blame others and want others to change; but Paul exhorted each of them to moderate themselves.

And this was a duty. We, like Paul, are prisoners of the Lord. We are God's captive - to do what he wants.

Whenever families have feuds, and people are heightened emotionally - there can be a lot of shouting. But cool heads, and warm hearts, and soft words, and self control are the things that we are obligated to display.

We are bound together by the bonds of peace - as captives of Christ, we obligated to maintain the peace.

And this peace comes because of Christ. Christians have Christ as their head, they are part of one body, share the same Spirit, have a common hope, are called to be Christians, and experience the same power of God in them.

Differences Make Unity Hard

Yet, there are differences between Christians. We all have differences in personality, in background, in education, etc.

And while lowliness of mind, meekness, and forbearance help to temper these things; there will still be conflict.

Song of Songs 4:12-15 describes the different personalities in church. It pictures a cultivated garden of different plants from different regions of the world - which can't survive together unless they are cultivated.

There are desert plants such as saffron and aloes; plants from the mountains like the spikenard; and plants from warm fertile valleys.

This is the church - we come from different backgrounds. The church is composed of people from every tribe, people, and nation - and Jesus loves each one.

In the church, there are the old saints who because of their age, have

developed the sweetness of Christ - just like the pomegranate.

There are those who are especially useful to the kingdom - having gone through life's trials - just like the camphor plant - whose leaves when dried and pulverized can be used to dye and color cloth.

There are those who are especially spiritual - they are like a sweet savor to the Lord because of their spirituality, able to bless others - like the spikenard.

But there are some Christians who are very tender and sensitive - like the saffron; and some who are very prickly on the outside - quick to offend others - but easily offended and soft on the inside - like the aloe.

Then there are some Christians who are very hardy - able to withstand great trials of life - and actually flourish in times of great floods - like the calamus.

This is why keeping unity can be difficult because we are so different.

Differences Can Foster Unity When We Serve Each Other

However, differences can also foster unity. Christ has given his people different gifts according to the different measures of gifts he has given to them (Ephesians 4:7-11).

These gifts are given by a triumphant Christ to his people - whether it be teaching, giving, mercy, serving, etc.

And the reason why God gave these different gifts, along with the attitudes of lowliness, meekness, and forbearance, is so that we can serve one another.

And this leads to even greater unity. If there's a loving attitude towards one another despite our differences, and if we use our different gifts to serve one another, the result is Ephesians 4:12 - *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."*

The word "perfecting" literally means "to put right." It is used for setting of broken bones or mending nets. These gifts work together to produce strong and fit Christians, leading to greater unity and maturity - that we won't be like immature children (verse 14). And when we do our parts, there will be Christian growth (verse 16).

This is where Christians in the body have to do their part not to be easily angered, accusatory, or impatient; but to use our abilities to serve one another. And this is not easy - because we can be easily angered, accusatory, and impatient.

When husbands and wives, children and siblings talk through their problems, tackle their differences, stop yelling but listening - the result is great understanding and maturity.

This is the same in the body of Christ.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God maketh himself known.

Q. 56. What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?

A. The reason annexed to the third commandment is, that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (11.11.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (18.11.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Chris Budiman
Pianist	Merilyn Woo	Edward Lim
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Johnny & Lydia Orchard
Offering Stewards	Yen Fye Yap*, Vincent Chiu* Steven Lim, Rex Sriharan	Paul Butler*, Micah Chiang* Kim Leow, Ken Hong
Ushers	Wendy Gong, Dolphin Wai	Jemima Ng, Sharon Sriharan
Kitchen Duties	Eileen Tay*, Jemima Ng Mary-Anne Chan	Lisa Lim*, Lydia Orchard Victor Poon
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Jacob Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>16 November 2018</i>	<i>23 November 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Ian Tay

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: "Bitterness and Peace" (Hebrews 12:14,15).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "A Well-Taught Church" (Acts 11:19-30). Speaker: Vincent Chiu.
4. Church Family BBQ. Today, 12pm at Bicton Quarantine Park, 8 Phipps Street, Attadale. Printed maps available from Jacob Woo.
5. Ladies Fellowship. Final meeting for 2018 on Sunday, 25th November 2018, 12.15pm at church. Lunch and DVD "How People Change". Bring a dish to share. Ladies of all ages welcome. Please see Wendy for more details.
6. Worship Leader and Musician Workshop. Next Lord's Day, 18 November 2018, 12.30 pm.
7. Bible Conference 2019. Dates: 22-25 April 2019. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Theme: Strength in Weakness. Speaker: Pastor Josh Williamson. Register by 31 Dec 2018 for early bird fees. Registration forms available at foyer. Any enquiries, please contact Micah Chiang or Vincent Chiu.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$2,140.10 (*DD - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$357.40 (*DD - 100.00, #832 - \$147.40). Building Fund - \$700.00 (*DD - \$400.00, #619 - \$200.00, #620 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,197.50. Attendance - 129. *DD: direct deposit
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
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.

Your Place in Church
1 Corinthians 12:4-31

God loves his church and desires her to grow. He has given her spiritual gifts to us that we would grow the church. This leads to growth and unity. Unfortunately, gifts given to promote unity have been used to promote division, when people gifted don't serve and people not gifted in an area serve. There was a diversity of gifts (v 4), from the gifts of ministry (v 5) to the miraculous gifts (v 10). Everyone wanted the showier gifts that brought them attention. This was wrong thinking.

1. God Brought Us Into the Church.
 - a. Spirit Baptism (v 13)
 - b. Passive
 - c. Past event
 - d. Spiritual gifts fixed
2. God Positions Us in the Church.
 - a. Position is not ranking but role
 - b. All roles are important (v 14)
 - c. Status in the world is irrelevant (v 13)
 - d. Our roles are determined by God (v 18)
 - e. We can't cease from serving (vv 15,16)
3. God's Purpose for Us in the Church.
 - a. Do the work of the body (v 27)
 - b. Promote unity (v 25)
 - c. People oriented (vv 25-26)

Questions for Reflection:

1. The question must never be, "What can the church do for me?" The question must be, "How can I serve the church to fulfill of its mission and calling?" What can I do to erase my consumer mindset? How can I function as a member of the body?
2. Am I arrogant in the gifts that God has given me (vv 21-26)? Have I confessed my pride in this area? How can I grow to value and appreciate members of the body that are differently gifted? Would I be disappointed if I were to discover that I was gifted to be a helper and not a leader? Do I truly believe that servanthood is the highest form of service?
3. How am I serving God in an "unofficial" way in church? Is it important that I serve in an "official" way?