



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 18 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	44 - <i>Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Ephesians 4:14-32
Hymn	TP 29:1-6, 10-11
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 12:14-15
Hymn	352 - <i>Like a River Glorious</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Bitterness and Peace"
*Closing Hymn	248 - <i>Grace Greater Than Our Sin</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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One Body with Many Parts

Gifts Given to Promote Maturity and Unity Can Be Used to Bring Division

God loves his church and has given her spiritual gifts that she would grow in maturity and unity. Unfortunately, gifts given to promote unity have been used to promote division. How? By 2 ways.

Firstly, when spiritual gifts aren't used, there will be division. This happened in the Corinthian church. They were gifted with a diversity of gifts to be used so all could benefit but some weren't using their gifts (1 Cor 12:4,7, 15-16).

Secondly, it was because of discrimination and preeminence. Dr Steve Lawson said, *"They treasured flashier, showier gifts that pandered to their emotions and catered to their flesh."*

They didn't think much of each other. There was a party spirit (1 Cor 3:4). There was division because they wrongly understood the body of Christ.

Because of this, the church hadn't moved beyond immaturity. They had to learn that their gifts and the gifts of others were given by God to all that they might serve one another.

God Has Brought Us into the Church

Our inclusion into church is not a result of what we have done, what we are, or what we can do. But we were cleansed by God and separated from the world to be brought into the church.

1 Corinthians 12:13 says, *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body."*

Because it was God that brought us into the church, there should be no room for preeminence or discrimination. There's no room for despising other people in the body.

At our conversion, God gave us our spiritual gifts. They can't increase or decrease. But we will discover them as we serve.

Spiritual Gifts Determine Our Roles in Church

Where do we fit? Where is our place in the church? Where do we serve? It is God who positions us.

But this positioning is not about rank. Christ is the head and we are his disciples - equal to one another. No one is better than anyone else. Yet our roles are different.

Since the church is a body and there's no preeminence - all parts are needed. But some can think it's all about them - that they've done so much and served so much.

But Paul told them - it's not about them - it's about the body. 1 Corinthians 12:14 says, *"For the body is not one member, but many."* The church does not revolve around one person or their whims and opinions.

Christ has brought us from every social stratum, every background, and every race (1 Cor 12:13). And though the Corinthians were mostly not educated, noble, or powerful, they were enamored by those who were (1 Cor 1:10-31).

No doubt there were people who thought that since they were noble or educated or skilled, they deserved preeminence.

But it is God who determines our service and our role. 1 Corinthians 12:18 says, *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."*

When Joshua and Caleb fought the Amalekites, their success was proportionately related to Moses' prayer by lifting his hands - and Moses' hands were supported and lifted up by Aaron and Hur. Some fought, another prayed, and others supported.

People like to say that no one is indispensable. But it is also true in the church that none are dispensable. All parts are needed in the work.

The Purpose of Many Gifted Parts

The purpose God has placed you in a church is for you to serve. There is one body - but many parts (1 Cor 12:27). In other words, the purpose of individual parts is for the greater good.

But very often our own needs, wants, activities, business, family events become more important than the church. And this hurts the body.

But when we do our parts there will be unity. 1 Corinthians 12:25 speaks of this negatively - *"That there should be no schism (fractures) in the body."*

We prevent fractures when we do what we're supposed to do and submit to each other. When we don't, then there will be schism. Now, this is easier said than done.

Dr John MacArthur said, *"Some may have said, 'If I can't serve the way that I want to serve in a role that I feel is significant, then I'm going to take my marbles and go home.'"*

Some may have felt sidelined, jilted, or unhappy with others; and as a result, they refused to function (1 Cor 12:15-16). This is not humility but self-centeredness.

But service demonstrates affection for the body (1 Cor 12:25-26). How is it pleasing to God when we take our

marbles and go home? If the body is so important; and we are given gifts to serve, how can we simply absent ourselves?

The glory of God is far more important than ours. The body of Christ is far more important than our individuality. And when we absent ourselves, there is some darkness that looms.

In a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. Finally, he decided to build a church. The complete plans for the church were kept secret. When the people gathered, they marveled at the church's beauty and completeness. Following many comments of praise, an astute observer inquired, "But where are the lamps? How will the church be lighted?" Without answer, the nobleman pointed to some brackets in the wall; he then gave to each family a lamp to be carried to the worship service and hung on the wall. "Each time you are here, the area where you are seated will be lighted," the nobleman explained. "Each time you are not here, that area will be dark. Whenever you fail to come to church some part of God's house will be dark."

May God be pleased to speak to us and spur us on to play our parts. ~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 57. Which is the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment is, Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Q. 58. What is required in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment requireth the keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his Word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>Next Week (18.11.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (25.11.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Mark Chen
Pianist	Edward Lim	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Johnny & Lydia Orchard	Xuan Tee & Julian Poon
Offering Stewards	Paul Butler*, Micah Chiang* Kim Leow, Ken Hong	Ken Chong*, Julian Poon* Johnny Orchard, John Tan
Ushers	Jemima Ng, Sharon Sriharan	Putri Harapan, Josephine Austin
Kitchen Duties	Lisa Lim*, Lydia Orchard Victor Poon	Aliza Chiu*, Jackie Hong May Poon
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>23 November 2018</i>	<i>30 November 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene Lim

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: "The Pillar and Ground of Truth" (1 Timothy 3:15).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Jesus Christ Will Fight for His Church" (Acts 12:1-25). Speaker: Chris Budiman.
4. Worship Leader and Musician Workshop. Today at 12.30 pm.
5. Ladies Fellowship. Final meeting for 2018 next Sunday, 25 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. Christmas Day Service & Fellowship Lunch. Tuesday, 25 December 2018. Lunch after the service - please bring a dish to share.
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 December 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 - \$2,657.40 (*DD - \$200.00, #833 - \$11.70, #834 - \$300.00, #835 - \$196.50). Missions Fund - \$230.00 (*DD - 100.00). Building Fund - \$400.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #621 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,287.40. Attendance - 118. *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.

Bitterness and Peace
Hebrews 12:14-15

One of the greatest problems is relationship problems. They exist between husbands and wives, children and parents, and friends. And such problems can fester. It can become worse when there is no clarification and reconciliation. Why are we comfortable to let conflict continue without clarity? What is pleasing to the Lord?

1. Pursue Peace and Purity
 - a. A command
 - b. Praying for it
 - c. Working by being holy
2. Receiving God's Grace
 - a. Be vigilant
 - b. The sufficiency of God's grace
3. Battle Bitterness
 - a. Sin defiles
 - b. Die to self

Bitterness destroys the family, destroys the church, and destroys each of us. Pursuing peace and purity and battling bitterness requires conversation. That's what God did to rescue us - he sent his Son, who was called the Word, to speak to us. Is there someone you need to speak to?

Questions for Reflection:

1. Why is it easier to quit a relationship than to work on it? How much do we want the other person to change, but not work on our own change and softness?
2. How much do we fear resisting the grace of God?
3. How have you seen bitterness work its evil work in your own life and the life of others?