



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 4 November 2018

Theme for the Year: "King Jesus Must Reign" (1 Corinthians 15:25)

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| Prelude | <i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i> |
| Call to Worship | |
| *Opening Hymn | TP 108:1-6 |
| *Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i> | |
| Scripture Reading | Song of Songs 4:1-16 |
| The Lord's Supper | |
| Hymn | 342 - <i>When This Passing World Is Done</i> |
| Hymn | 398 - <i>The Lily of the Valley</i> |
| Tithes & Offering | |
| *†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer | |
| Scripture Reading | Ephesians 4:1-16 |
| Hymn | 219 - <i>Blest Be the Tie That Binds</i> |
| Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer | |
| Sermon | "Endeavoring to Keep the Unity of the Spirit" |
| *Closing Hymn | 222 - <i>Church of God, Beloved and Chosen</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

Tolerating Sexual Sin in the Church?

Sexual Immorality Is Tolerated

Immorality is tolerated. People co-habitate and pre-marital sex is common among young people. Homosexuality is tolerated and is considered a normal alternative.

Teens struggle with internet pornography. It has become a common addiction - especially with easy access to smart phones.

Sexual immorality is not new - but the means by which people fall into it are ever changing - there is TV, music, commercials, and the internet.

And these are things increasingly tolerated by Christians. How should Christians deal with immorality?

Intolerance by the Individual

The word "intolerance" is hated. People are intolerant of intolerance.

But for the Christian, there must be intolerance towards immorality.

Paul rebuked the Corinthian church for their tolerance of immorality. In 1 Corinthians, he rebuked them that there was fornication happening among them and it was a well-known fact.

Fornication refers to any unlawful sexual activity outside of marriage.

And the type of immorality was so gross that even the immoral Gentiles would have been shocked!

And the church was tolerating it. They had not confronted it.

Therefore, there must be intolerance - we must recognize it as sin. God considers sexual relations as good only between husbands and wives. Any sexual relation outside of marriage will be judged by him.

Therefore, Christians are not to give themselves to sexual lusts. And holiness in this regard is paramount (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). God desires his people to be sanctified in this regard.

Furthermore, there must be abstinence. Paul exhorted the Corinthian Christians to flee fornication.

Just as Timothy was counseled to flee youthful lusts (and he was in his 40s), our young people and middle aged people ought to be exhorted to flee them.

There are those who may be apart from their family members and spouses because of work. And they may be apart for months on end.

We ought, as far as possible, to remain with our spouses. Much time apart can lead to coldness and to temptation.

Intolerance by the Church

The Corinthian church was allowing the immorality to go on without addressing it.

While they should have been greatly appalled by it; they were only griping about it.

While they should have brought charges against the person, they only commiserated about it.

While they should have disciplined the person, they allowed it to continue.

Paul said that his was proud behavior on their parts. 1 Corinthians 5:2 - "*And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.*"

They didn't address the sin, and the sinner was still warmly welcomed despite his sin.

Paul called this behavior pride. They may have been proud of their tolerance.

It is one thing to show mercy and patience, while at the same time performing the work of admonition. It is completely something else to ignore the immorality.

How can the church show intolerance?

There should be grief. Paul called the church to grieve for this tolerance. When a Christian lives in such immorality, we should mourn.

Why? Because they are bringing harm to the church and to themselves and their families.

And this means that the intolerance is toward the sin - not to the brother. We should love the brother to help that brother love Christ.

And this means there should be admonition, rebuke, and confrontation. 1 Corinthians 5:2 says that this brother must be disciplined.

When we know of such sin, there is a duty of love and care to the offending Christian.

Why is there such a loving intolerance? Because we are fearful that tolerance may allow the sin to spread.

1 Corinthians 5:6 speaks of how a little leaven leavens the lump. Leaven such as yeast is microscopic - but its power

to make a piece of dough double in size is significant.

When sexual immorality is tolerated, more people will fall into it. When King David committed adultery, it brought problems to his personal life, his family, and ultimately to the kingdom.

When Ahab married a pagan, it brought much eventual judgment to the nation.

Therefore, the leaven of sexual immorality must be purged.

Christians who have Jesus as savior - as their passover lamb forget that our salvation demands that we live committed lives to him.

Christ is not merely our sacrifice - he is the fire that burns the leaven. We can't have him as our passover lamb and not have him as our purifying fire.

Conclusion

There is a lot of tolerance toward sexual sin today.

We see it in Christian families. "What can we do? He's an adult!" "This is the culture in society today."

But when there is loving intolerance of it, perhaps those who struggle with it will be rescued to the praise of Christ.

And when there is loving intolerance of it, perhaps those who have been deceived by its poisonous sweetness can be saved from its death.

~ *Pastor*



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 53. Which is the third commandment?

A. The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Q. 54. What is required in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works.

Worship Service Roster

| Service | This Week (4.11.18) | Next Week (11.11.18) |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Speaker | Mark Chen | Mark Chen |
| Worship Leader | Mark Chen | Jacob Woo |
| Pianist | Ian Tay | Merilyn Woo |
| Welcomers | John & Adeline Ng | Kim & Jesslyn Leow |
| Offering Stewards | Jansen Ng*, David Pang* David Lim, Chris Budiman | Yen Fye Yap*, Vincent Chiu* Steven Lim, Rex Sriharan |
| Ushers | Rebecca Lee, Heng Qi Ban | Wendy Gong, Dolphin Wai |
| Kitchen Duties | Nancy Lim*, Merilyn Woo Vincent Chiu, Florence Orchard | Eileen Tay*, Jemima Ng Mary-Anne Chan |
| PA Duty | Raymond Woo | Ian Tay |
| <i>Prayer Meeting</i> | <i>9 November 2018</i> | <i>16 November 2018</i> |
| Facilitator | Mark Chen | Mark Chen |
| Pianist | Nancy Lim | Jerome Ng |

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. First time visitors wishing to partake the Lord's Supper should see an elder before the service.
3. Next week's message: "Many Parts One Body" (1 Corinthians 12:4-31).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Praising God for his Goodness to All" (Acts 11:1-18). Speaker: Johnson Lim.
5. Church Family BBQ. Sunday, 11 November 2018, 12pm at Bicton Quarantine Park. Cost: \$5/adult and \$3/child under 12. Please register with and pay Jacob or Merilyn today.
6. 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.

| Appointments for the Week | Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance |
|---|---|
| WED 10:00 am Craft Group FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service | General Fund - \$2,358.50 (*DD - \$200.00, #831 - \$20.20). Missions Fund - \$220.00 (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$400.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #618 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,978.50. Attendance - 130. *DD: direct deposit |

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.

Endeavoring to Keep the Unity of the Spirit
Ephesians 4:1-16

The local church is the local expression of Christ's kingdom on earth. It is comprised of sinners who have been redeemed by Christ from their sins. Christ puts redeemed people who are still in the process of sanctification together in one body. And he commands them to grow in that unity and in holiness together. How can this holiness and unity be fostered and encouraged?

1. The Unity We Already Have
 - a. The attitude towards that unity
 - b. The commonalities we have
2. The Differences We Possess
 - a. Our characteristics
 - b. Our different abilities
3. The Unity We Pursue
 - a. The purpose of our abilities
 - b. Doing our part

The work of unity and sanctification is a difficult process which requires effort on the part of everyone. It requires self-denial, affection, and deference. But unless there are these characteristics, the work of the church cannot progress.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Which characteristic are you more prone to and how has this helped or harmed the unity of the church?
2. How have you kept or promoted the unity and holiness of the church by your gifts from God?
3. How have you obeyed God by your giving and receiving of admonition?