



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 10 No. 11

LORD'S DAY 12 MAR 2006

Dear Readers,

THE JOY OF BUILDING A COVENANT'S HOME

It is difficult to build a happy and blessed home these days. Many families are disintegrating with children revolting against parents, spouse against spouse in violence or immorality, or in-laws against daughters and sons. Society is adversely affected when the basic foundation of the family is under attack. How then can a Christian couple build a home that can stand to the test of trials and temptations?

The Bible gives us the formula. It has to be founded on Christ, the Solid Rock. It is conventional wisdom that if we were to construct a building, we need to have sound foundation. So to build a flat, you need piling and it certainly requires depth. You need concrete and you need to meet certain stipulations. The last thing you want is a sudden collapsed building. It is vain for the watchman to do a job when God is not protecting the city. It is fruitless for us to work so hard when there are holes in our pockets as the prophet Haggai puts it (Hag 1:9).

In other words, there is more than human effort, there is a divine side to things which sometimes we fail to recognise. It is just like you can buy a bed but not sleep, food but not appetite, weapons but not peace, sex but not love, insurance but not security. Only the Almighty Jehovah who is our Redeemer and Lord is sovereign over the affairs of our lives. Do you know Him? Do you seek Him first and honour Him? So, the secret of a happy home is one where Christ is the Head and is honoured and revered not just occasionally but in a real sense, everyday, all the time in our decision making, conflict resolution, in bringing up children, in our values and our principles with a clear conscience. But first you must know Him personally. Rom 10:9-10 says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Ps 127:1—The Building of God's Home

The tedious construction process requires planning, digging, materials. It is elaborate and hardwork. It takes time and effort, but yet its success also depends on other factors like weather that affects its progress ultimately. It is not wrong to want to build a home, but how do we build it is important.

The foundation has to be strong: The basis is firm grounding, not money, not intellect, not worldly advice or beauty or degrees but the LORD, our Jehovah God, our Creator, Yahweh and Saviour, Jehovah. A covenant home is God-centred and bible based. This affects relations, decision-makings, communications, solving problems and conflicts. Sadly today, divorce is increasing with each passing year, (in the US, it is more than one out of two for some states) and traditional families in the east are also breaking down. What is the secret of strong familiar ties, if any?

What are the elements in the establishment of a godly home? There are at least four and we will consider them using this acrostic ABCD; which stands for Authority, Bible, Communication and Discipline/Diligence.

Authority

God is the supreme Authority in the home and is to be submitted to unconditionally. However, He has delegated the authority to the husband as the head of the home. Often, problems in the family erupt when we do not have a proper authority structure. God has sovereignly given the burden and responsibility to the man (Eph 5:23-25; Col 3:18-20). So, wives, you are to obey and submit to Christian husbands, as you had covenanted in your marriage vow (Mal 2:14). Being the husband and leader, men we are to remember...

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that domestic leadership comes with its privilege and obligation. It is a fearful thing to lead and you must keep close to your God, who is your ultimate Ruler and leader, and you are to lead by example and love your wife who is worthy of all your affections and care. Infidelity is totally unacceptable and it destroys the marriage relationship.

The man has to practise the 4Ls; namely to Learn, Labour, Love and Lead and the wife the 4Ss; namely to Submit, Supplicate, Suggest and Support. Wives, remember to pray for your husbands everyday because whatever he does will affect your life greatly. It does not mean that as a wife you cannot have opinion or after discussion if there is still differences. In direction, the husband can have the final vote, subject to the will of God. Set a good example before your children so that they have a model to follow.

Bible

Authority is not without a guide or basis. The Bible is to be central to the Christian home, just like the hymnwriter says,

“O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Master, The Bible read, the precious hymns still sung.”

Your infallible standard for the directions and management of the home is the Manual authored by the Maker, the holy bible, verbally inspired and providentially preserved by the Almighty Creator. Refer to it often and (when things go wrong), read the instructions carefully again and again. This will prevent many unnecessary quarrels, problems and will undermine a happy home in the Lord. Let the Bible be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path (Ps 119:9, 11). Cherish it. Love it. Read it. Meditate upon it daily and assimilate it into your life (Jos 1:8,9).

Communication

One of the common problems in marital relations is the breakdown of communication. Firstly, communication begins with our relationship to God. Do we pray often and do we constantly intercede together as a family before the Throne of Grace?

My wife and I make it a point to pray every morning before we leave the house and we have been doing that for the past 11 years. Sometimes, when we are in trouble, we tell everyone except God. Secondly, do you also share and talk frequently and honestly? Do you share your visions, emotions, aspirations, and your hurts and feelings? Do you take time to listen to each other? Now, husbands, sometimes you may come back from a long day work and your spouse has a lot to tell you. Listen to your spouse even though you may be tired.

We have different affiliation needs and companionship; and conversation is one way of bonding together. Husbands, you must be all ears to your wives, and wives also, vice versa. Spend quality time together. Deepen relationship by purposeful interaction. Do not always email or go through someone else, speak to her or him personally and show that you really care.

Discipline / Diligence

There is a sense in which discipline and diligence are almost responsible for the success of anything, from our studies to our jobs, to the church and the home. God expects us to do our part in heartwork and hardwork. There is blessing in Christian self-discipline and labour. As we support the family, Discipline also keeps us away from mischief and an empty mind is the devil's workshop. The Christian home requires both the husband and wife to cooperate and work hard in their own spiritual and family lives.

The rearing of children in the home and the responsible stewardship of the talents God gives you, is our duty and privilege. Nothing venture, nothing gain. There is no elevator to success, you have to use the stairs of diligence. “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men” (Col 3:23). Glorify God by honest hardwork and God will surely bless and prosper your family.

The Priorities of the home are:-

1. God first—Matt 6:33, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matt 6:12, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”
2. With Eternal Values in view—Col 3:1, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.”
3. Bible / Prayer and Sabbath. Worship's chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
4. Christian Fellowship and Responsible Stewardship to the Lord in a local church.
5. Catechising of Children—teaching them to honour God in word and deeds; (Deut 6:6,7) to have a sincere desire, and aspiration, to please God. Heb 11:6 says, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”. This will save us from many troubles and pain later.

As you embark on a journey in building a Christian home, there is great joy and yet the fear of God must be with us (2 Cor 7:1). We must be wise and prudent in this treacherous immoral and perverse world (Prov 9:10). Jesus Christ is the sole Guarantor of the covenant home. The wife is the partner in the building of a blessed covenant family with the husband as the head.

It is not impossible with God. All things are possible but it may take discipline, diligence, hard work, heart work and a dependence on God. Start on the right track from the beginning. Do not be self-centred or worldly-centred but Christ-centred. This is the only sure way of eternal happiness and joy during all the vicissitudes of life. Ask the Lord to bless, preserve and prosper your family and marriage to the glory of His name.

*Rev Jack Sin
Maranatha BP Church*

I KNOW

"I KNOW"—against this fortress wall
The gates of hell shall not prevail;
I know in Whom I have believed
And that His word shall never fail;
I know that He is able still,
Is strong to save and strong to keep.
And all that I commit to Him
Is safe, though I may wake or sleep.

"I KNOW"—my firm foundation this,
The Rock amid the shifting sand,
I know that Jesus is the Christ,
And builded here my house shall stand;
I know, though all my hand hath wrought
By fire and flood be swept away,
This corner-stone of faith shall rest
Unshaken in the last great day.

"I KNOW"—this anchor-hope will hold
Till storms and clouds forever cease;
I know that He will come again
To bring the Thousand Years of Peace,
I know that when He shall appear
And earth and time for me are past,
When in His likeness I awake
I shall be satisfied at last.

- A. J. Flint -

In Green Pastures Devotional Readings for Every Day of the Year

By J.R. Miller, D.D.

12 March 2006

MORNING

1 KINGS 5:6 "Now therefore command thou
that they hew me cedar trees out of
Lebanon;"

SOLOMON was determined to put into the Temple nothing but the best. Nothing imperfect, nothing unworthy, must go into that building of God. In the building of our character nothing that is not beautiful should be used. We should read the best books, so as to build into our life-temple only the whitest thoughts of the world.

Our friendships have much to do with the making of our character, and therefore we should have only good and true friends. Above all, we should read the Bible, for it contains God's words and thoughts. They are all the whitest, purest marble, and there is no blemish or flaw anywhere in them.

Then we should have the companionship of Christ, for He is the truest, the most inspiring Friend any one can have. We should put also into God's work that we do in our lives only the best. We should never give a touch to any character, through word, disposition, act, or influence of ours, which is not clean enough to appear before Christ's holy eyes.

EVENING

THE SANCTITY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

THE soul that has had a vision of Christ, the person in whom Christ is already formed the "hope of glory," and who is also himself destined to wear the divine image, must never drag his honour in the dust of sin, must never degrade his holy powers in any evil service. Every time we are tempted to commit some sin, if we would stop and think, "I am now a child of God; shall a child of God, destined to wear Christ's image, stoop to be untrue or dishonest or impure, or to cherish wrath or bitterness?" Would we not turn away from the temptation? Could we sin against God with the consciousness of our high calling in our heart?

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON
CHURCH THEME: STRIVING TO LIVE ABOVE OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS
IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1:3)

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
Morning	Today: 12/03/2006	Next Week: 19/03/2006	
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Mok Chee Cheong	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Speaker:</i>	Mok Chee Cheong	Rev Ray Porter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening Service: Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) This week: Q67: What is effectual calling? Q68: Are the elect only effectually called? Q69: What is the communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ? <i>Next week:</i> Q70: What is justification? Q71: How is justification an act of God's free grace? Q72: What is justifying faith? Q73: How doth faith justify a sinner in the sight of God? <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Do stay back and find out the answers from the Word of God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ladies Fellowship: All ladies, please take note that there will be a short meeting after the morning worship service. • Lord's Supper: Next week, we will be observing the Lord's Supper. Please come with hearts prepared. • 10th Anniversary preparations: This will take place on Jun 25. For those interested in helping out, please see Mok or Jonathan. • Easter Camp: The YAF will be organising the church Easter camp, Apr 14-17. The camp theme is "Living for Jesus". For more information, please see the YAF committee. • Church renovations: The church will be making several improvements. Please pray that the renovations will be done properly and in a timely manner.
<i>Message:</i>	Submitting One to Another – Part 1	Submitting One to Another – Part 2	
<i>Text:</i>	Ephesians 5:22-33	Ephesians 6:1-9	
<i>Organist:</i>	Yanning	Amanda	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jeff Pun	John Poh	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Mok Chee Cheong	Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	WLC Questions 67-69 See News/Announcement	WLC Questions 70-73 See News/Announcement	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Ming Yann	Feng Qian	
Other Duties			
	Today	Next Week	
<i>Ushers</i>	Jeff/Wah Soon	John/Daniel	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Joyce	Esmeralda	
<i>Singspirat'n:</i>	Esmeralda/Ming Yann	Jonathan/Feng Qian	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Yoong Chiang/Jonathan	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	YAF Group 2	YAF Group 1	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	Ladies Fellowship	"Missions"	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 17 Mar	7.00 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Prayer (led by Esmeralda)	
Sat 18 Mar	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr / C'man: Alvin	
<u>Last Week's Worship Service Collections</u>			
Offering:	£331.33	Book Sales: £7.00	Lunch: £29.20
<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>The Shorter Catechism</u></h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Q.89 How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Ans: That the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Comments: We are here taught the proper way to use the Bible. We must use it carefully, reverently, and prayerfully. We must believe what it tells us, and do what it bids us. And we must receive the truth in the love of it, else the Word read will not profit our souls.</i></p>			