



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. 17 No. 35

LORD’S DAY 01 SEPTEMBER 2013

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 92:1-4

Psalm 40:5

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 24 – “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

RHC 15 – “How Shall I Sing That Majesty”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 33

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 33 verses 1-9
(to the tune of Ellacombe, RHC 29)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 321 – “He Hideth My Soul”
verses 1-2

Scriptural Text

Ephesians 5:21

Psalm 119:29-32

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Colin Wong

Rev Colin Wong

Sermon Message

Submit to One Another

The Word Liberates - Part 2

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 382 – “I Would Be True”

Psalm 119 verses 25-32
(to the tune of Beatitudo, RHC 63)

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Colin Wong

Rev Colin Wong

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* Congregation Stands

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

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, Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

Church Theme 2013 – “Understand and know God” – Jeremiah 9:24

My Dear Reader,

WHEN YOU GET HURT EMOTIONALLY

When you get hurt emotionally, what do you do? What should you do? What must you do? People get hurt emotionally everyday. People get hurt emotionally by what others say about them or what others do to them. James says, *“For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body”* (3:2). Alas! Who can find a perfect man?

When you get hurt emotionally, you get angry with *that* person who offended you. You curse and swear at him. Your whole demeanor is affected. Psychologically, you are affected. Your mind is filled with negativism. You begin to look inward. You begin to sorrow over certain things. Your judgment begins to be distorted. Your emotion begins to be overwhelmed with bitterness. Your mental acuteness begins to drop. All of sudden, you find yourself not as sharp as before. Your discernment begins to get distorted. Then depression seeps in. You begin to feel lousy and downcast. You begin to experience sleepless nights. You begin to realize that you are going to have a nervous breakdown. All these, and many more unexpected ramifications are affecting your physical, spiritual, emotional and mental health.

When you get hurt emotionally, your relationship with the person involved is affected. You may know *that* person for years. However, that relationship which you have enjoyed for years may just turn sour overnight. You do not want to have anything to do with *that* person. You find it hard to open your heart to him or her again. There is fear within you that he or she might say something that may haunt you nightly. You are not prepared to take another *“blow”* from him. You do not want to be hurt again and therefore, you try to avoid him. Solomon says, *“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle”* (Proverbs 18:19). Socially speaking, you are greatly affected by it and it would be hard (not impossible) for *that* person to win you back.

When you get hurt emotionally, you feel a deep sense of unworthiness, a continuous feeling of anxiety, inadequacy and inferiority. There is also an inner nagging that says, *“I’m no good. I’ll never amount to anything. No one could ever possibly love me. Everything I do is wrong.”*

My dear New Lifers, is that what you are experiencing now? Do not be discouraged! Do not be disheartened! God is still on the throne. Let me tell you that there are many Christians like you who are going through similar ordeals, and are coping well emotionally. Yes, some have given up and sipped into depression. Even then, there is still hope in God (Psalm 42; 43). I have known people who get so deeply hurt that they could not even face another day. Some have given up coming to church because they do not want to see that particular person who has offended them. How sad!

Now when you get hurt emotionally, what should you do? Let me suggest to you a few things which I think you ought to know and to do in order to stay *“afloat”* spiritually and live victoriously for the Lord.

Self-Examination

Serving in a sizeable church, periodically I do receive anonymous letters. The contents of such letters can be most disheartening and damaging. I do not mind receiving anonymous letters from these people, if there are constructive criticisms because I see them as an opportunity to examine and correct myself and to strengthen my weaknesses. I am not perfect.

What should I do when I receive an anonymous letter that deeply hurts me? How should I respond to it?

Firstly, I lay that letter before the Lord (Isaiah 37:14). Secondly, I go on my knees to ask the Spirit of God to search my heart (Psalm 139:23, 24). Thirdly, I ask God whether the things that the anonymous writer has written about me are true or not. Am I that kind of person? And if they are true, then I thank God for the writer for pointing my weaknesses out to me. However, if they are untrue, then I would pray that the writer will not allow Satan to sift him or her as wheat (Luke 22:31, 32). And finally, I plead with God for cleansing of my sins, ask him for forgiveness and wait upon him to show me how I can further improve myself. That's how (and I believe it pleases God) I respond to negative letters.

No Vindication

I always believe that God is my only vindicator (Psalm 43:1). I let the Lord vindicate me. Some time ago, I received an anonymous letter which says that I may be “*visiting*” or “*welcoming*” members at the entrance, but what I am doing is all perfunctory. In other words, I am doing it for the sake of doing it. I am doing it for the wrong motive or hypocritically. There is no love and warmth involved. When I read it, my heart was deeply hurt. But God rescued me immediately for he knew that I am going to preach a very important message on the Lord's Day.

The Spirit of God directed me to the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:3-5 which say, “*But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*” When God judges, he is always fair and square (Psalm 51:4b).

Thus I left the matter to the sovereign Lord and let him vindicate me. I did not have any ill feeling toward that person. My spirit was at peace with God. I believe wholeheartedly in Proverbs 16:7 which says, “*When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.*” Though I may be knocked down but I am never knocked out (2 Corinthians 4:9). Thank God for his sustaining grace!

Overcome Evil with Good

Over the years I have learned this precious lesson from Paul in Romans 12:19-21 which says, “*Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good*” (Proverbs 25:21, 22). I have learned this one thing in life. If a person cannot find fault with you doctrinally, he will find fault with your character or personality. Character assassination is deadly. There is no end to it. In this respect, I thank God for the doctrine of sanctification, which is progressive in nature. Unlike justification, which is a one-for-all process (Romans 5:1), sanctification is a process (Romans 7:14-25; Ephesians 1:4; Philippians 2:12, 13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7; Hebrews 12:14). I am not perfect, but striving toward perfection (Philippians 3:12, 13).

What should I do to overcome evil? Jesus teaches me to love my enemies and pray for them who persecute me (Matthew 5:44). And I learned this precious lesson 36 years ago when I was in the mission field. There was no lack of persecution from the enemies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:16-42).

Despite unhappiness from certain members, I still have to minister to them faithfully because they are my sheep (unless they do not want to be ministered to), and above all, that is my calling as a pastor (Ezekiel 3:4-9).

I believe with all my heart that if God has called me to be a pastor, then he will grant me his grace, wisdom and strength to do the task of a pastor. *“Who is sufficient for these things?”* (2 Corinthians 2:16) Thanks be to God, for my sufficiency is of God! (2 Corinthians 3:5).

My dear New Lifers, this is my heart sharing with you. There is much to learn in the Lord’s vineyard. Everyday God is teaching us something new. The lessons may be hard and hurtful but we know that they are good and beneficial to us. Therefore, may I encourage you that the next time you get hurt emotionally, learn to rejoice with it, knowing that the trying of your faith produces fruits that last forever (James 1:2-5; 1 Peter 1:6, 7; Job 23:10). Amen.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Pastor Colin

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Discussion Questions

1. Does the command, *“submit,”* make you feel joyful or angry? Why? How should it make you feel?
2. How can Christians know if or when they should not submit to unjust or corrupt authority? What guidelines apply?
3. When those in authority are not protecting or blessing those under authority, what recourse is there? Is it wrong to seek to correct the abusive situation? Give Scriptural support.
4. How does a person rightfully submit without becoming a doormat? When is it right to say *“no”* to serving others?

- I. Introduction
 - A. Submission can be an irritating word (Genesis 2:16, 17; 3:6).
 - B. Is there a worldview of submission?
 - C. Is there a biblical worldview of submission? (Ephesians 5:21)
- II. Definition of the Word
 - A. What does it mean to submit?
 - B. The meaning of the word “*submit*” (Luke 2:51; Luke 10:17, 20; Romans 13:1; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13; 1 Peter 3:22; 1 Corinthians 15:27; Ephesians 1:22; 1 Corinthians 15:28; 16:15, 16; 1 Peter 5:5; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:5; Ephesians 5:22, 24; Titus 2:9; 1 Peter 2:18; Hebrews 12:9; James 4:7).
 - C. The concept of “*submission*” (Ephesians 5:21; 19, 20).
 - D. The explanation of the word “*one another*” (1 Peter 5:5; Hebrews 13:17; Titus 2:9; Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:22; cf. 1 Peter 2:18; Romans 13:1; cf. 1 Peter 2:13; Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20).
- III. The Mark of Christianity
 - A. Mutual submission is a mark of Christianity (John 13:35).
 - B. Learn to be a servant of all (Matthew 20:25-28).
 - C. Submission is the forgoing of your interests so that you can serve someone else (Philippians 2:3, 4).
 - D. The Lordship of Jesus Christ (1 John 4:19; Philippians 2:6-8).
 - E. Christians should place themselves under each other’s authority out of respect for Christ (1 Peter 5:3; James 3:10).
 - F. How can I know that a Christian is Spirit-controlled? (Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18)
- IV. Practical Steps to help Christians to submit to One Another
 - A. Mutual submission must begin with the leadership of the church (1 Corinthians 1:10).
 - B. Understand the clear teaching of God’s Word on submission.
 - C. Evaluate your attitude toward other members of the church (1 Peter 5:2, 3; 1 Timothy 5:17-20; Hebrews 13:17).
 - D. Young men, do you submit to older men? (1 Peter 5:5)
 - E. Husbands, how do you treat your wives? (Ephesians 5:25, 28; Colossians 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7)
 - F. Wives, how do you treat your husbands? (Ephesians 5:22, 24; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Peter 3:1-4)
 - G. Parents, how do you treat your children? (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21)
 - H. Children, how do you treat your parents? (Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20)
 - I. Employers, how do you treat your employees? (Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1)
 - J. Employees, how do you treat your employers? (Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25; 1 Peter 2:18)
 - K. As citizens of the United Kingdom, how do you treat your God-appointed government? (Romans 13:1, 5, 7; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Acts 4:20; 5:29; 26:19)

V. Conclusion

“*Submit yourselves to one another*” goes against the human selfish nature. Human tendency is to lord over others. But submitting one’s self to another is the opposite of self-assertion, the opposite of an independent, autocratic spirit.

Christians are told to submit themselves to one another because it is one of the signs of one who is being filled with the Spirit. To submit to one another means to get along with one another, living in harmony and peace and treating one another equally. And this is all done in the sphere where the fear of the Lord is present.

Beloved, let us submit ourselves one to another in the fear of the Lord. Do not allow pride to keep us from submitting ourselves to one another and thus destroy the harmony of the church. Amen.

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

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. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK			WELCOME
Wed 04 Sept	11:00am	Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We do hope that you have a blessed time of worship on this day.
Fri 06 Sept	7:00pm	Young Adults Fellowship	
Sat 07 Sept	4:00pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev Colin Wong	Rev Colin Wong	<u>TODAY: 01/09/2013</u> Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Jasmine Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael Lunch: Mrs Wong Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Jonathan <u>NEXT WEEK: 08/09/2013</u> Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Jasmine Ushers: John / Constance Sunday School: Hannah Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott
Message	Serve One Another	Eight Petitions of the Psalmist (Part 1)	
Text	Galatians 5:13-15	Psalm 119: 33-36	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Rev. Wong will lead a discussion on this mornings' sermon "<i>Submit to One Another</i>". • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor Ki, Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Rev Colin Wong. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta. • Pray for those on travel: Pastor & Mrs Ki, Sarah, Yangfan. • Lord's Supper: We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared. 			
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £902.41, Lunch: £37.20, Kenya: £50.00 Attendance - Morning: 23 (A) 9 (C), Evening: 16 (A) 8 (C)			

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 86

Q: What is Faith in Jesus Christ?

A: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we RECEIVE and REST UPON HIM ALONE for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Comments:

Grace means undeserved favour or kindness. A saving grace means an act of God's favour ending in salvation. Faith is such a grace. And it is here said to consist in *receiving* Christ – that is, in believing what is said of him in the Bible, and *resting upon him* – that is, trusting our souls to him as our Saviour. We rest on him *alone*, and not in anything we may or can do. Our plea is, *Christ only*.

Scriptural Reference:

John 3:16, Acts 4:12

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:” 2 Corinthians 9:8	“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,” Ephesians 3:20	“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;” Romans 4:20