



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. 20 No. 49

LORD'S DAY 04 DECEMBER 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 99:1-3

Psalm 89:15-18

Opening Hymn *

RHC 2 – *"O Worship the King"*

RHC 76 – *"Day Is Dying in the West"*

Opening Prayer *

John Poh

John Poh

Gloria Patri *

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 41

Second Hymn *

Psalm 41 verses 1-4
(to the tune of Belmont, RHC 7)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *

RHC 115 – *"Constantly Abiding"*

Scriptural Text

Malachi 3:8-12

John 21:4-6

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Funding God's Work

Fishing Lessons for Professionals

Closing Hymn *

RHC 390 – *"Something for Thee"*

RHC 324 – *"Trusting Jesus"*

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

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.

"Growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" - 2 Peter 3:18

BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER

Adapted from Life BPC Singapore Weekly, Sunday 2nd October 2016

One of the challenges in life is to live with people. The world comprises many types of people. People are made very differently. Some are ego-centric, some are opinionated, some are grandiose, some selfish, some self-absorbed, some undependable, some gossipy, some critical, some aggressive, some blame others for everything and accept little or no responsibility for anything.

People can be very difficult to live with. People have different needs. Their needs will change depending on where they are in their life cycle – puberty, menopause, mid-life crisis and beyond. People have different perceptions about the way things happen too. You can look at something and try to explain it according to your perceptions. However, other people may not accept your explanation because they do not see it exactly the way you see it. As a result, it creates tensions that do not help build good relationships in the home, workplace and community.

The local church of God is not spared from it. The local church comprises people from all walks of life. Though converted by the power of the Gospel, some Christians still make life difficult for other Christians because of their intolerable attitude. How do we deal with such Christians?

Mutual Forbearance

Mutual forbearance is what the church needs today. Paul exhorts Christians to walk worthy of the calling to which they have been called. As God's chosen people, you and I are to live the way God's people should live (Ephesians 4:1).

How then should we live? Paul gives us five Christian virtues that characterize the Christian who walks worthily of his divine calling. Besides "*humility*" which gives us the idea of a person's recognition of his creaturely dependence on God (A humble person is aware of his own smallness and lack of merit before God), "*meekness*" which expresses itself in a patient submissiveness to offense, quiet restraint, free from malice and desire for revenge (Matthew 5:5), "*longsuffering*" which describes a person who is able to bear injury and insult without retaliating, he exhorts them "*to bear with one another in love*" (Ephesians 4:2)

The word "*forbearing*" has the idea of putting up with things we dislike in others. A tolerant person is able to make allowances for the faults of others, to bear with them in their weakness and failings. Putting up with someone is not enough. It must be done in love. In fact, everything that we do must be done in love (Colossians 3:14). That is why Paul adds "*in love*" to show that forbearance is not to be done grudgingly but in a loving manner. We are to patiently put up with one another in love. We are to do it to our spouses. We are to do it to our parents and grandparents. We are to do it to one another.

Practical Steps to Show Forbearance

"*No man is an island*" (John Donne, 1572-1631). We cannot live our lives solitarily. We are made to be social beings. Every day we come across people from all walks of life. We interact with them. We jostle against each other. We speak quickly and give expression to thoughtless words which fall like sparks on other inflammable tempers. We interfere with the interests of others in order to achieve ours. So we offend people in word or action. We never give a thought on how people feel. We hurt their feelings. All these happen because we fail to patiently put up with them in love. We do not have Christian grace.

Mutual forbearance is a Christian grace. Without it life is hard and society is in chaos. The same applies to the local church. Think about it. If members become intolerant with one another, what would the church become? The church will become a place of gossip, infighting, fault-finding, a battlefield with slander and shame. Therefore, members must prevent any of these things from happening in the church by bearing with one another in love.

Here are four simple steps to a God-honouring church:

1. Guard against a Critical Spirit (Matthew 7:1-5)

It is very easy to find fault with people. We are good in seeing people's flaws. Some of us carry microscopes fine enough to reveal millions of blemishes in the character and conduct of people. We are always suspicious of the motives and intentions of others.

People who possess such a censorious spirit are people who are full of hypocrisy. Jesus condemns it (Matthew 7:3-5). He sees every weakness in us. Despite our millions of blemishes, He came all the way to save us (Romans 5:8). Having saved us, He continues to love us till the end (John 13:1).

The law of Christian forbearance requires the same in us. We must put away our suspicious, judgmental, censorious spirit. We must come down from the watch-tower (so to speak) and cease from looking for people's neglects, wrongs, flaws or grievances of any kind. Rather we must bear with one another's weaknesses in love.

2. Keep Silent under Provocation

This is a hard lesson to learn. We always want to fight back. We must say something because our reputation is at stake. We want justice. Therefore, we can't keep silent. This is probably what many of us would do.

But that's not how Jesus reacted when He was vehemently insulted by the religious people of His day. He received all the venomous insults of the cruel crowd with patient uncomplaining silence (Matthew 27:12, 14). Isaiah said that He was like a lamb silent before the shearer (Isaiah 53:7). There was no word of resentment and no look of impatience but he patiently bore His pain and suffering for us sinners (1 Peter 2:24).

Proverbs 16:32 says, *"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."* Great is the conqueror who leads armies to victories. Mighty is the strength that captures a city. But greater is he who can rule his own spirit. There are men (Generals or CEOs) who can command armies or corporation but cannot command themselves. There are pastors, Bible teachers or leaders who by their excellent preaching and teaching can sway vast multitudes, but can't keep silence under provocation. The highest mark of nobility is self-control, keeping silent when being irritated, angered or provoked.

There are times when *"silence is golden,"* when words mean defeat, and when victory can be gained only by answering not a word. Many of the painful quarrels and much of the bitterness of what we call so often *"incompatibility of temper"* would never be known if we would learn to keep silence when others wrong us. We may choke back the angry word that flies to our lips. The insult unanswered, will recoil upon itself and be its own destruction (Romans 12:19-21). We must exercise forbearance when we are irritated, angered or provoked.

3. Practice the Grace of Forbearance

No insult can do us harm unless we allow it to irritate us. If we practice the grace of forbearance even the harshest words will not leave one trace of injury on us. However, if we allow ourselves to become impatient or angry, injury is inevitable.

When Jesus was on the cross, the religious people made fun of Him (Matthew 27:42, 43). He could have called an angel to zap them but He did not (Matthew 26:53). Instead, He prayed for them – *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”* (Luke 23:34).

Every reaction to injustice or grievance will leave a stain and a wound. Every angry word utter will hurt somebody. Every human hate inflicted will leave a trace of harm on someone. However, the feeling of resentment, hatred, and bitterness can change to compassion if only we look to the Saviour and pray what He prayed, *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”*

So when we exercise mutual forbearance, it protects us from all the cruelties and wrongs of life. A large-hearted Christian will always seek to find some mitigation for the apparent wrong.

4. Mercy and Love go Hand in Hand

God is full of mercies and abundant in lovingkindness (Psalm 103:4, 8, 11; John 1:14, 17). His mercy never fails. His love bears with all our neglect, forgetfulness, ingratitude and disobedience. He never grows impatient with us. We live, only by His forbearance. The Bible says that it is of His mercies that none of us are consumed because His compassions never come to an end, for they are new every morning; great is His faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22, 23).

The wrongs that Jesus bore for us are infinite in comparison with the trivial grievances we must bear from our loved ones, colleagues or church friends. When we think of His forbearance, we will not become impatient with the little irritations of daily interaction with others. We are taught to pray the Lord’s Prayer – *“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”* (Matthew 6:12). When we pray this petition sincerely, we cannot continue to be exacting, resentful, revengeful and bitter against those who have ill-treated us either in word or action. Amen.

- Pastor Colin Wong

Letter from Judith Collins in Kenya

Dear London Friends! in Jesus.

On Tuesday last week while I was at the College giving out exams, the office there gave me the gorgeous Bible you obtained and had sent to me for our Pastor Nacha of Baalah. Wow. That is a whole Bible College course in there. And it lies flat. This should be a wonderful blessing to Nacha, many things in it should not be brand new, surely they will remind him of what he learned when in College, plus so much new blessings. The layout is good, easy to relate the notes to the particular verse on the page. Even leadings for family worship. This will help him with his children whom he loves so much. I saw them again on our trip north to the Youth Conference. Little Kento, the youngest girl and the love-affair between her and the new little guy, Malmado (Late comer!), he is so cute! I took pictures but something went wrong in my camera to blur images so I don't know whether it will print well, but their images are in my mind at least!

When I got home I rang Nacha to tell him I had just received his Bible from you. He was very happy and wanted me to send it up by MAF airrplane. But since Peter we hope will be going north next week, I will send it with him if all that news pans out as it might.

sorry to be so late in notifying you, I did not see the gentleman who brought it to the college, but he had rung me and said Carol Lee had brought it from Singapore... Aren't you clever with "ways and means" to help us, may the Lord really bless this Bible to pastor Nacha! is my prayer, not only to the church and people he ministers to, but to *himself*. Even his older children will probably try to read from it. Who knows all that might come from this book.

Thank you from me for what you did.

Judith

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
Weds 7th Dec 7pm Mid-Week Outreach 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.
Sat 10th Dec 4pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<i>Preacher</i>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 04/12/2016</u> <i>Chairman:</i> John <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Anthony <i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Evelyn <i>Sunday School:</i> No Sunday School <i>Lunch:</i> Sunny & Emily <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Scott / Yetta
<i>Message</i>	Proving God's Work	Breakfast by the Lake	
<i>Text</i>	Malachi 3:8-12	John 21:1-13	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "Building Firm Foundations". • Basic Bible Knowledge Class, 3pm: Dr Martin will continue the series of studies aimed at those wishing to become church members. • Baptism instruction classes: Any who are interested in being baptised, we are scheduling a series of Baptismal classes in the coming weeks. Please speak to Dr Martin for more information. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies. • Church Maintenance Fund: The Church needs to undergo some significant repairs in the coming months; a Maintenance Fund has been set up for anyone wishing to offer a love gift to assist with the costs. • There will be Carolling in front of Church at 2:30pm today. • Lord's Supper: We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 11/12/2016</u></p> <p><i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Matthew <i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Yetta <i>Sunday School:</i> No Sunday School <i>Lunch:</i> Shami <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> John</p>
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £429.00, Lunch: £32.27 Balaah Fund: £100, Church Maintenance Fund: £30 Attendance - Morning: 29 (A) 7 (C), Evening: 10 (A) 3 (C)	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 43

Q: What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?

A: The preface to the Ten Commandments is in these words, 'I AM THE LORD THY GOD, WHICH HAVE BROUGHT THEE OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, OUT OF THE HOUSE OF BONDAGE.'

Comments:

These are the words which precede the Ten Commandments. They were spoken to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai, shortly after their deliverance from the bondage of the Egyptians. And they may be applied to us in token of our deliverance from the bondage of sin.

Scriptural Reference:

Exodus 20:2

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry."</i> Psalm 40:1	<i>"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."</i> Proverbs 22:6	<i>"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."</i> Psalm 42:1