



# NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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**LORD’S DAY 20 DECEMBER 2020**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 135:1-3, 13	Romans 15:4-6
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	John Poh
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 91	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Jeremiah 17:1	Hebrews 6:9
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<b><i>Alienation from God</i></b>	<b><i>Full Assurance</i></b>
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong

### **NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dear fellow worshippers and friends,  
 The government has announced today that London will enter a Tier 4 category for Covid-19 restrictions. Whilst places of worship are able to stay open, the Church Committee has decided to close the Church to safeguard the wellbeing of the congregation.  
 Both Morning and Afternoon Worship Service, and Friday weekly Prayer Meeting will be conducted online.  
 If you require the link to our online zoom services, or have any questions or require further clarity, please call the church manse or email us at admin 'at' [newlifebpc.org.uk](http://newlifebpc.org.uk).  
**Christmas Day Service, 11am** – Service will be held online. Please speak with Pr Mok for more information.

### **SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 42**

**Q: What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?**

*A: The sum of the Ten Commandments is, TO LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD, with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and OUR NEIGHBOUR as ourselves.*

Comments:

The whole of God’s commands to us are here summed up in one word – LOVE. The man who with his whole soul loves God and his neighbour, fulfils the law. *Neighbour* here means not merely one who lives near us, but, as Christ teaches us (Luke 10), whoever holds kindred with us, or is a man.

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 23:37, 39, 40; Romans 13:10

### **MEMORY VERSE**

#### **Last Week**

*“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”*

**Hebrews 6:10**

#### **This Week**

*“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”*

**Jeremiah 17:9**

#### **Next Week**

*“Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”*

**Hebrews 7:25**

# **DIRECTIONS FOR HEALTHY MARITAL RELATIONS WITHIN A COVENANT HOME**

Our Marriages are under siege and families are affected adversely. According to the Office of National Statistic, UK:

- 42% of marriages end in divorce (2019)
- 45-49 is the most common age bracket for divorce
- 62% of divorces were on petition of the wife
- 60% of marriages are expected to end in divorce by the 20th wedding anniversary
- 1,217 civil partnership dissolutions granted in England and Wales in 2017, an increase of 53% from 2012
- £51 billion is the estimated taxpayer cost from family breakdown, through effects on health, extra housing support, legal aid, lost work hours and other related factors

Is it possible for Christians to have a God-honouring and vibrant married life in the midst of a hostile, tempting and unhelpful secular environment? It is noteworthy that Divorce is never God's will for us, but it is permitted by the Lord as he said, due to the hardness of our sinful hearts (Mt 19:2). Do not be quick to call off a marriage in anger or revenge. Seek divine counsel and wait upon the Lord. We believe it is possible by God's enablement and a strong spirit of accountability to God and humble forgiveness and faithfulness to each other (Ps 127:1, Eph 4:32) to be reconciled in due time as the Lord leads. Christians need to let God work in our hearts and be ready to repent of our sins and not be hardened against the will of God. Below are some suggested helps that hopefully will be useful in nurturing a healthy God-centred marital life in the midst of mounting and exacting demands and challenges in our marriages. Nothing is impossible with God, but we must do our part too. Consider the followings:

1. God's blue-print for a successful marriage include the headship of the husband, and the submission of both to the Lord (Col 3:18–19).
2. The husband has the privilege and responsibility of loving the wife and to be faithful to her (Eph 5:22–25).
3. A Christian family includes the sorting out and understanding of our respective roles and responsibilities in the home.
4. The man is the loving leader, and he has to be accountable for the major decisions in the family, in consultation with the Lord, and secondarily, the wife.
5. While the husband is the head of the house, the wife is the heart of the home, and is generally responsible for supporting the husband in all his duties.
6. Do not take each other for granted. Express appreciation to your spouse frequently and show chivalry, tenderness, respect and courtesy, and words of affections, encouragement and succour and strength.
7. No two persons can effectively walk together or live together for long unless they agree in principle (Amos 3:3).
8. One of the basic requirements of good effective communication is mutual openness, honesty and transparency. Honesty is still the best policy.

9. Each of the spouse must first have a sound foundational and intimate relationship with the Lord before they can be to each other. Marriage falls apart normally when one (or both) falls away from the Lord first.
10. Good communication requires temperance and discipline and a charitable spirit and the appropriate choice of words, tone of voice and non-verbal body language.
11. Good communications requires free and open conversation and careful attentive and interested listening.
12. Good listening involves letting a person speaks without interruptions, and understanding what the other person is trying to convey across.
13. Refrain from having a rerun of old arguments, and bygone conflicts. Deal in the present and the future in the will of God, not in the past (Eph 4:32).
14. Never shout at each other unless the house is on fire. Remember that ANGER is one letter short of DANGER. Shouting is a lazy man's way of trying to be emphatic (Col 4:6).
15. Resolve all conflicts by the end of the day. Remember, if you don't, you have the devil for a strange bedfellow (Eph 4:26).
16. Practise the golden rule of Matthew 7:12. Do unto your spouse what you want your spouse to do to/for you.
17. Learn to say, "Thank you," "I am sorry, I don't mean it," "I appreciate it," "Excuse me," and mean it. Believe me, it will save you from unnecessary troubles (Col 4:6).
18. Remember the closer you get to Christ, the closer you are to each other (Mal 2:14).
19. Have a forgiving and magnanimous spirit (Eph 4:32). Allow room for mistakes and be ready to forgive and be reconciled and not be a fastidious person, who is too difficult to placate (Jas 3:17). Be willing to repent and say sorry if necessary.
20. A couple that prays together stays together (2 Cor 1:11). Start the morning right with the Word and prayer (Ps 5:3). Get in tune with God before the concert of the day begins (Dan 6:10). Never forget or forsake prayer and daily devotion.
21. Have a good circle of Christian friends (1 Cor 15:33), and serve the Lord together in the local church. Do not be isolated from the Christian community (Heb 10:24–25). Never miss Sabbath worship and edifying Christian fellowship.

Thank God for the institution of holy matrimony and we are to be given to our spouses who are committed to covenant marriage in the Lord and we are not to take them for granted. Take a moment to pray and appreciate them in the Lord for our lives on earth may not be too long and we may not have them around one day in this temporal world (Psa 90:12, Eph 5;15,16).

*“. . . Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, . . . yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant” (Malachi 2:14).*

— adapted and edited from Rev. Jack Sin, *church bulletin of SHBPC, Singapore*