



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 12 May 2019

Theme for the Year: "Strength in Weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	67 - <i>Come Christians, Join to Sing</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 127 & 128
Choir Presentation	462 - <i>Be Thou My Vision</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Kings 11:1-21
Hymn	472 - <i>O For a Closer Walk with God</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"A Treacherous Woman, a Heroic Woman"
*Closing Hymn	542 - <i>My Faith Looks Up to Thee</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

Women and Their Roles

Many people misunderstand the Bible as teaching the subjugation of women and the lordship of men.

It is true that in the Scripture, the people assumed the traditional roles dictated by cultural patriarchy. But this was not what the Bible taught.

The Creation Account and Women

In Genesis 1, when God first created man and woman, he created them after his image. In other words, they were created equal. Man does not have more of God's image than woman. Both have the image of God.

It is true that woman was created after the creation of man. But both of them are equal as spiritual beings before God. God does not consider one better than the other.

But aside from the equality in value and spirit, there are differences between man and woman.

God has given them different roles and functions.

Man was created first and woman was created from man. Eve was created from Adam's rib. Thus, Eve's purpose was to be Adam's helper.

To be a helper does not mean that the helper is lesser or inferior to the one being helped.

Unfortunately, people perceive this differently. This is why the disciples could not understand how Christ, as master could serve them by washing their feet. And this is why they could not understand how Christ, who was crucified, could be a savior.

God is called the helper of his people. The role of helper is very positive. Serving another is a very high and exalted role. Jesus said that the greatest of all is the servant of all.

The Bible speaks of wives as submitting to their husbands. This is what God had intended from the very beginning when he created man and woman.

The Fall of Adam and Eve

While this perfect arrangement was made by God, it was quickly destroyed by the Fall.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, there were consequences. The Bible tells us that part of the curse was that woman would find it hard to submit to her husband.

Genesis 3:16 reveals that the woman's desire will be for her husband. This does not mean that she will desire and love her husband. The context tells us something vastly different. It tells us that her desire will be to control her husband.

But the opposite will be true. Rather than loving her and exercising a loving leadership over her, his action will be to oppress her and exert control over her.

What we see as patriarchy today is not what the Bible teaches - it is a result of our own sins.

This is why there is a tussle throughout the centuries in every marriage - and this has spilled over to society. There's male oppression in corporations, male headship in nations, male oppression in almost every place - until Feminism emerged - to fight against these things.

But the answer does not lie with classic Feminism either - for it goes beyond fighting for the equality of the personhood of women; it despises her role of helper.

Examples of Female Roles in the Bible

In the Old Testament, women active as mothers and in the religious life of Israel.

They were usually not God sanctioned leaders - with the exception of Deborah, Esther, and Miriam.

None of them were heads of state with the exception of the evil Queen Athaliah. God had revealed in Isaiah 3:12 that he allowed women to lead in Israel as part of his judgment when Israel was living in sin.

Now, does this therefore mean that women cannot be heads of state today? No. We are not the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. The civil laws governing Israel are no longer binding for nations today.

In fact, in history, Christian queens have greatly advanced the cause of the gospel.

And while in the Old Testament, they didn't function as priests or generally prophets, they functioned prominently in the Bible.

In the New Testament, Jesus elevated their roles. Ancient civilizations such as Rome and Greece and even Pharisaical Judaism, viewed women as lesser beings and as possessions.

Now, the first thing that many Jewish men did every morning was to pray "Lord, I thank you that I was not born a slave, a Gentile, or a woman."

But Jesus interacted with women - even the Samaritan woman at the well. He was very close to Mary and Martha - the sisters of Lazarus - whom he taught. And he even praised Mary for her learning - something that men traditionally did - rather than Martha's serving - something that women traditionally did.

(This is why it is not right that only women serve in the kitchen - as if it is a woman's duty - or men serve as offertory stewards - as if it is a man only duty.)

They were disciples of Jesus alongside the men.

The Bible is very clear that there is equality - there is neither male nor female before God (Galatians 3:28).

There is equal standing. But there are still different roles. And one of the

Biblical roles - not traditional nor patriarchal - is that of a helper at home and at the church.

She may well be a CEO and a prominent business woman in the world - more power to her. But she is still helper at home and in church - how wonderful that God designed it that way!

Why do some feel uncomfortable with this? Simple. It's because we despise God's order and because we have believed the classic Feminist agenda above the Bible.

One must understand that God's design for men and women in the family and church can only be carried out by redeemed people.

The reason is because it can only be done from the heart. Men must love their wives - this is a heart issue. Women must submit to their husbands - this is also a heart issue.

No one can force a man to love; no one can force a woman to submit. If anyone could - it is tyranny.

Voluntary submission and loving leadership is a call of Christ - because Jesus did both. He submitted to his Father and served his enemies, and he lovingly rules the church now.

Similarly, in church, the woman is not to lead. But she has every right to pray, every right to admonish with the Word, and every right to serve alongside with men in the work of the ministry.

Understanding these distinctions will help us to understand the glorious roles God has given to women. And it helps women to understand their equality before men; and to expect the men in the church to step up and to fulfill their God-given responsibilities. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 98. What is Prayer?

A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (12.5.19)	Next Week (19.5.19)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Jairus Wong
Welcomers	Johnny & Lydia Orchard	Josephine Austin & Putri Harapan
Offering Stewards	Steven Lim, Johnny Orchard David Lim, Ken Chong	Chris Budiman, Jacob Woo David Pang, Jansen Ng
Ushers	Rebecca Lee, Nicole Tan	Jesslyn Leow, Joyce Ng
Kitchen Duties	Florence Orchard*, Nancy Lim Jemima Ng	Eileen Tay*, Rebecca Lee Jackie Hong
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>17 May 2019</i>	<i>24 May 2019</i>
Chairman	Eugene Lim	Vincent Chiu
Pianist	Mark Chen	Ian Tay

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "An Open Heart from a Wounded Apostle" (2 Corinthians 6:3-13).
3. The church will be ordering packed food once a month on the third Sunday to encourage people to stay behind for fellowship. Availability will be on a first come first served basis. Depending on the caterer, the cost will be \$3.50 - \$5.00 per pack.
4. Church 9th anniversary dinner on 23 June 2019. More details will follow.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$2,991.70 (DD - \$200.00, #864 - \$1,000.00). Missions Fund - \$350.00 (DD - \$100.00, #865 - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$1,600.00 (DD - \$1,400.00, #645 - \$200.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,941.70. Attendance - 130. *DD: direct deposit
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Repayment of Building Fund	
Next Payment: 1 June 2019	Total Paid To Date: \$130,000.00
Target: \$50,000	To Be Paid by 2025: \$310,000.00
Current Balance: \$52,894.10	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.
Johnson Lim 0402 145 682. Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.