

» COVENANT EAST PICNIC & GAMES

Have you been called to Covenant East? Let's play and bond as a Covenant East Family! Bring your kids and family, and even your pets to a morning of fun, food and fellowship.

Date: 25 Jun (Sat)

Time: 9am–12pm

Venue: East Coast Park

RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/CEFCEastPicnic>

If you would like to help with food or games, email us by tomorrow:

Food – jessie.quek@hotmail.com

Games – linda.chew@cefc.org.sg

» PARENTING TRAINING

The Bible advocates “discipleship begins at home”. We encourage parents to embark on this significant parenting with us!

Parenting with Love

For couples expecting their first baby

Dates: 9 and 16 July (Saturdays)

Time: 12nn–5pm

Venue: BPJ Centre, Chapel

Fee: \$50 per couple

Parenting with Faith

For parents with kids aged 10 years old and below

Dates: 2 Jul – 27 Aug (eight Saturdays)

Time: 3pm–5pm

Venue: WDL Centre, Joy Room

Fee: \$100 per couple

Register at the Information Counter.

» PRAYER & PRAISE

Singapore is facing an ageing population. Our senior citizens are a treasured group of people and we also want to recognise the important role of caregivers. Mr Kelvin Lee, manager at Touch Caregivers Support, will share some challenges we are facing as an ageing society. Let's come together and keep watch over our elderly and retirees!

Date: 24 Jun (Fri)

Time: 8pm

Venue: WDL Centre

» SERVE IN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir is looking for a volunteer instructor to co-teach a Children's Hand Chimes Ensemble. For more details, contact Shirley Chan at shirleychan60@hotmail.com

» UNIVERSITY BEFRIENDER PROGRAMME

Let's B.L.E.S.S. the Chinese international students who come to study in Singapore with our hospitality. We are looking for families to reach out to them through the University Befriender Programme from **Aug 2016 to Jul 2017**. Drop by our booth at the foyer today to find out more or email missions@cefc.org.sg
Last day to sign up is next Sun, 26 Jun.

» FATHER'S DAY GIFT

The *Dad's for Life Wristband* is available for fathers whose children are not in MOE schools. Collect one from the Information Counter while stocks last!

WOODLANDS 19 JUN 2016

SERVICE LEADER PS IVAN HO // WORSHIP LEADER BENJAMIN AND SHARON TAN



Fathering with Tears and Joy

BY: PS ADRIAN CHAN, INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

“Today a bride, tomorrow a wife, forever your little princess,” these breathtaking words moved my heart when the bride expressed her heartfelt gratitude to her dad, Jeremy Koh. Jeremy and Suan Ai have raised their kids intentionally, and as godly as they know how. Yet Jeremy admitted, “It is really the grace of God that she turned out this way. No amount of parenting will ensure that, though we try!” I am inspired!

In contrast, some of us have not experienced a godly model of fatherhood at home. But it's never too late to re-shape our thinking. Otherwise we may end up raising kids in much the same way as we were raised by our fathers. Dr Josh McDowell advocates these seven A's which can transform family relationships:

Affirmation. Affirming our kids' feelings helps us identify with them, even when we might not fully understand them. We share their joy and disappointment. We communicate that they have valid feelings. Affirmation builds authenticity.

Acceptance. Acceptance builds security. Our unconditional acceptance tells our kids that we love them no matter what happens. They are loved for who they are, rather than for what they do.

Appreciation. Appreciation builds significance. According to Dr McDowell, “while acceptance of young people tells them that their being matters, expressing our appreciation to them says that their doing matters too.”

Affection. Affectionate care and closeness build lovability in them. Through loving words and appropriate touch, we tell our kids that they are worth loving. Every child needs to hear from Dad, “I love you.”

Availability. Availability builds preciousness and importance. Conversely unavailability says, ‘Kid, other things come ahead of you.’

Approach. This means we enter into our kids' worlds, rather than demanding that they operate in their parents' world.

Accountability. We will give a personal account to God someday. Thus we balance improving parent-child connections with establishing loving accountability. Our kids will learn responsibility and how to function securely aided by boundaries.

Parenting humbles us. I have much to grow in these areas. I will make mistakes. But parenting is also a redemptive journey in God. Our prayers and every parenting effort matter much. Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy (Psa 126:5)! God loves you Dads! Have a joyful Father's Day!



VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VALUES

GRACE
GROWTH
GODLINESS

COVENANT EFC

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SERMON OUTLINE



Father's Day

Scripture: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:10-12 Sermon: REV DR TAN SOO-INN

1. Fathers are called to help their children develop their full potential.

2. They do it by modelling.

3. They do it by encouraging.

4. They do it by comforting.

5. They do it by urging.

Next Week's Sermon Speaker:
26 Jun REV EDMUND CHAN (BPJ and (WDL)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY



One God, One Church

Scripture: EPHESIANS 4:4-6 // Sermon: PS IVAN HO

Introduction

In our increasingly individualistic society, Paul urges us as Christ's disciples to be "eager to maintain the unity" that we have in Christ (Eph 4:3).

Why should we make every effort to maintain our unity?

Three Foundational Principles:

A. We Are One Body by the Holy Spirit

"There is one body and one Spirit" (v.4)

One body. The term "one body" refers to the "one Church" of God. The Church is Christ's body (Eph 1:22-23). The Church is created by **one Spirit**. In that one Spirit all Christians are baptised into one body (1 Cor 12:13). We can experience that spiritual unity and fellowship with one another regardless of race, language, nationality, social status, educational background, and outward appearance. In Covenant EFC, there is a precious visible unity. Don't take God's blessings for granted. Guard against pride and arrogance. Keep strengthening the unity.

B. We Have One Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

"one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (v.5)

The **one Lord** Jesus Christ creates the one faith and one baptism. Christians believe in Christ (must have the right Christology and soteriology cf. Eph 4:13-14). The objective meaning of "one faith" refers to "the body of doctrine that all Christians believe" (cf. 1 Tim 4:6). Essential, non-negotiable doctrines vs. non-essential. Peter O'Brien: "There is only **one baptism** because there is one Lord Jesus Christ in whom believers are united, one body into which all Christians are incorporated." When Christians are baptised into Christ (Gal 3:26-28), we are united with Him in His death, burial and resurrection (Rom 6:3-5). This spiritual reality is symbolised by water baptism.

C. We Are One Family Under God Our Father

"one God and Father of all, who is over all ..." (v.6)

One God and Father of all Christians, i.e. His children everywhere. God is "over all and through all and in all"—His universal sovereignty and presence. He is God and Father over the global church, as well as the national church. Growing visible unity across the denominations and churches in the Singapore church, e.g. annual GDOP since 2006 culminating in JDOP last 5 Jul 2015. All the mainline denominations and numerous independent churches supported and participated. Application: Humbly serve the larger body of Christ when you have opportunity to do so.

Conclusion

Make our unity visible! We are often the problem contributing to disunity. Disunity cripples our mission. Make every effort to live lives with humility, gentleness, patience and loving forbearance. Then unbelievers will be drawn to the Church and to Christ. They will find the unity and love that Christ also offers to them—in a relationship with Him, with God the Father and with God's people (Jn 17:20-23).