

» 38TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Next Sun, we are celebrating Covenant EFC's 38th birthday as *One Family* with a special combined service. We will also have a children's service for three to ten-year olds.

Date: 4 Sep (Sun)

Time: 9.30am

Venue: Singapore EXPO Hall 1

Please share with us your photos and thoughts on how Covenant EFC is One Family to you! Upload your photos to Instagram and Facebook with the hash tag #OneFamily and tag us @covenant.etc

» SERVE IN NEW LIFE

Do you love children? Come and mentor them at P.A.N.D.A Champs – a character-based mentoring programme for 7 to 10-year-olds.

Dates: 22 Nov–15 Dec every Tues and/or Thu

Time: 9am–1pm

Venue: BPJ Centre

Training will be provided on 27 Oct, 7.30pm–9pm at BPJ Centre, Patience Room.

To register or enquire, contact Cai Aiwei (97167154; caiaiwei@newlife.org.sg) or Lewis Woo (96349457; lewiswoo@newlife.org.sg)

» HOKKIEN MID-AUTUMN OUTREACH

Do you want to reach out to your family and friends who speak Hokkien? Invite them to our Hokkien Mid-Autumn Outreach event!

Date: 10 Sep (Sat)

Time: 7pm–9pm (Buffet starts at 5.45pm on a first-come-first-served basis)

Venue: BPJ Centre

Speaker: Rev Timothy Hoon

Guest Artist: Lina Ng

» COMMUNITY BLESSINGS

Here's an opportunity to B.L.E.S.S. the kids in our community. As we aim to help more kids, we need more tutors for the primary level at the following locations once a week:

- Wednesdays, 7pm–9pm at Block 237, Choa Chu Kang

- Thursdays, 7.30pm–9pm at Block 632A, Senja Road (BPJ)

To sign up or enquire, email vincent.chia@cefc.org.sg

» MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Please sign up at the Information Counter if you wish to attend the next Membership Class.

Date: 24 Sep (Sat)

Time: 9am–4pm

Venue: ACKCentre

WOODLANDS 28 AUG 2016

SERVICE LEADER REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI // WORSHIP LEADER CHUA SUE ERN



Whole Life Inventory: A Discipleship Health Check

BY: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI, DIRECTOR, SENIOR PASTOR'S OFFICE

How do we measure the health of a church? How do we know if we are doing well or not in our discipleship? Well, one way we can do so is by measuring the growing number of people in our congregation, or perhaps by the financial giving of our church, or by the number of centres we have. Yet we recognise that these are but proxies. More than the centres and number of people attending the worship service each Sunday, we are more concerned with the kind of Christians we are growing. Are our lives really being changed for Jesus with all the teaching, training, small groups, etc? Also as we move towards 2028, we believe that God has directed our attention to grow the relationships in our families and our young people. How would we know if we are really making any difference in these two areas?

We found a tool administered by *Focus on the Family Singapore* that we believe will give us a better assessment of our spiritual health. The *Whole Life Inventory* is a multi-dimensional instrument developed by Singaporean Christians to assess the health of our local churches. It measures five key areas: Faith, Identity, Relationships, Sexuality, and Values—the very ones we are keen to know ourselves! This inventory has been done by several smaller churches and a large church in

Singapore. Looking at the initial results, we believe it would give us a better measure of the current state of discipleship in our relationships, families, and young people. Winston Churchill once said: "Facts are better than dreams." We will use the facts to alert us and help us chart a better course towards 2028.

This survey is totally anonymous, done online with a church code (to be released next Sunday at our anniversary service), and will take you about 15–30 minutes to complete. It will be open starting on our anniversary service until 25 September. We would like as many Covenanters to take part in this inventory. As long as you see Covenant EFC as your spiritual home, you are welcome to participate. We would like our young people starting from 13 years old to also take this inventory so we can get picture of what's happening. Parents, please help us encourage your teens to do so. Even if your kids are not attending Covenant EFC, they are encouraged to participate so that we can have a clear view of the family.

Once the data is in, they will be processed and Lord willing, we will inform you of our "health status" by end of November this year. Look out for the access code next Sunday and be part of our very first *Whole Life Inventory!*



VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VALUES

GRACE
GROWTH
GODLINESS

COVENANT EFC

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SERMON OUTLINE



Walking Wisely

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 5:15-17** Sermon: **PAUL SHI**

Introduction

A. The Wise Discerns and Redeems the Time (vv.15-16)

B. The Wise Obeys and Understands the Will of God (v.17)

Conclusion

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY



God's Wake-up Call

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 5:3-14** // Sermon: **REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI**

Introduction

God gave a wake-up call to His church in Ephesus by telling them to abstain from **lust** and to shine as His **light** in a dark world.

A. Wake Up from Our Delusion of Lust (vv.3-7)

1. The background of the Ephesian church was a culture of sexual immorality. Dr Clinton Arnold wrote, "Adulterous relationships, men sleeping with their slave girls, incest, prostitution, 'sacred' sexual encounters in the local temples and homosexuality were all part of everyday life."
2. God created sex as a good gift within the bounds of marriage between a man and a woman. Anything outside of that contravenes His design and will bring pain. The Christian is not to walk in that kind of immoral living.
3. Greed has the self at its root. Therefore both immorality and greed are based on lust/self which seeks to satisfy one's own appetite. Living in a materialistic world, we must also watch out for greed in our lives because we tend to guard against the more obvious sins (e.g. sexual immorality).
4. Both sexual immorality and greed seek to satisfy a need, but do not address deeper issues such as genuine intimacy and security (which can only be found in God), thus both are delusions. Do *not* live in such delusions. Aside from not satisfying, they also lead to being excluded from God's Kingdom.

B. Wake Up to Our Destiny as Light (vv.8-14)

1. Instead, God tells us to live as **light** in a dark world. We are light because of what Jesus has done for us on the Cross. To be **light** means that God's life is in us (Jn 1:4). God's life in us is experienced by the Presence of His Indwelling Spirit.
2. Paul tells us we can live as light in our being and doing. He means the qualities of God's indwelling Presence such as goodness, righteousness and truth. When we demonstrate these qualities in our being, God's life is manifested to others.
3. Paul tells us four ways to shine for the Lord:
 - a. **Thanksgiving** (v.4) – this demonstrates an outward focus rather than the inward self-centredness of lust.
 - b. **Exposing Sin** (v.11) – sin loses its grip on us when we "expose it to light" (i.e. confess it and show it for what it is).
 - c. **Seeking God's Will** (v.10) – A lot of God's will are already expressed in His written Word. As we seek Him in His Word, we will know His heart and mind.
 - d. **Testimony to Others** (vv.13-14) – as we live *A Certain Kind* of life before others, they will have an opportunity to witness the reality of a good God and then Christ may further reveal Himself to them.

Conclusion

In Jonah 1:6, we have the unusual situation where a non-believer tells a God-follower to wake up and pray! This is also the call to us as a church today, to wake up from our slumber and live as **God's light** in a dark world.