

# Announcements

## MEMBERSHIP AFFIRMATION

**Our biennial membership affirmation is ongoing!** All Covenant EFC constitutional members are required to affirm their membership by 28 Feb to remain as a constitutional member.

- Affirm your membership at the booth at the foyer or at [www.cefc.org.sg](http://www.cefc.org.sg) by clicking "My Account".
- Select whether you would like to receive the notice of AGM by email or by postal mail.
- Add a profile photo and update your personal particulars after your affirmation to receive the appropriate information and letters for the upcoming AGM.
- If you need assistance with your Voyager account, email [sgi.admin@cefc.org.sg](mailto:sgi.admin@cefc.org.sg)

If you are not able to affirm, submission of new membership application form is required to be a member again. Application forms are available at the Information Counter.

## i12PRAY

Participate in *i12pray* by committing to pray for Covenant EFC leaders and for Singapore at least once a month, on a day of your choice. Sign up and access the daily prayer guide through the "Covenant EFC" mobile app! Together, we can cover our nation and church in prayer every day of the year!

## CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are looking to fill the following positions:

- **Executive (Global Alliance)**
- **Executive (Human Resources)**
- **Executive (Finance)**
- **Executive (The Next Generation)**

Applicants should either be a church or CG member, with a heart to answer God's call in their lives in furthering Covenant EFC's mission. For more information, please visit <http://www.cefc.org.sg/index.php/about-us/recruitment> Email your resumes to [hr@cefc.org.sg](mailto:hr@cefc.org.sg) by 4 Feb.

## PARENTING TRAINING

Parenting with Faith. For parents with kids below 12 years old. **Dates:** Eight sessions from 27 Jan to 14 Apr. **Time:** 2pm–4pm **Venue:** ACKCentre **Fee:** \$100/couple Register at the Information Counter today!

## AGM NOMINATIONS

Nomination of office bearers for the Church Board 2018-2019 term is now open. Please get the nominations forms at the Information Counter and submit by 28 Jan 2018 to The Honorary Secretary, Covenant Evangelical Free Church, 2 Kallang Avenue, #10-26, CT HUB, Singapore 339407. Candidates will be considered by the nominations committee and subject to Board approval. For enquiries, contact Sandy Siak, Honorary Secretary at [honsec@cefc.org.sg](mailto:honsec@cefc.org.sg)

### Nomination Committee

Nomination Chairman: Chang Li Lin  
Senior Pastors: Rev Tony Yeo and Rev Tan Kay Kiong  
Board Chairman: Elder Louis Tan  
Board Honorary Secretary: Sandy Siak  
Board Members: Roger Loh and Patrick Lim  
Lay Members: Tham Sau Ling and Paul Ong

## BREAKTHROUGH WEEKENDS

**Today** is the last day of early bird registration. Don't miss it!

## DISCOVERY WEEKEND

Courting couples, would you like to further develop your relationship for God's glory? Choose one Saturday (8.30am–5pm) from this year's Discovery Weekend dates: **27 Jan, 14 Apr, 21 Jul and 20 Oct.** Register at the Information Counter.

## YOUTH DANCE WORKSHOP

Covenant Dance Ministry will conduct Youth Dance Workshops (Contemporary, Hip Hop and Ballet) during the March and June 2018 school holidays! Youths should have at least two years of dance experience from regular dance classes as this is not an introductory dance workshop.

**For youths aged 10 to 12 years old.** This workshop will introduce them on how to use their gifts and talents in dance to serve God. Dates: 17 and 18 Mar Venues: ACKCentre and WDL

**For youths aged 13 to 15 years old.** This workshop will invite them to consider what it means to be a Christian dancer and how to be set apart to use their gifts for God's Kingdom. Dates: 9 and 10 Jun Venues: ACKCentre and WDL

Cost: \$15 per participant (payment by cheque)  
Registration closes on 11 Feb To register or enquire, email [cefdance@gmail.com](mailto:cefdance@gmail.com)



... for a Vibrant & Healthy  
Next Generation

... for Godly Families  
and Generations

... for a Growing IDMC  
Movement in Singapore

... to Impact Our Society  
& Culture

... for a Growing Global  
IDMC Movement

ACKCentre  
2 Kallang Avenue,  
CT Hub #10-26, Singapore 339407

ONE CHURCH  
MULTIPLE CENTRES

BPJ Centre:  
Sun 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm

WDL Centre:  
Sun 8.30am & 10.30am

East Centre:  
Sun 9am & 11am

T (65) 6892 6811

E [mail@cefc.org.sg](mailto:mail@cefc.org.sg)

W [www.cefc.org.sg](http://www.cefc.org.sg)

FB [www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch](http://www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch)

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WOODLANDS, 21 JANUARY 2018

SERVICE LEADER: PS SHARON FONG • WORSHIP LEADER: PS FABIAN GHUI

# Authentic Discipleship

PS BARNEY LAU, DIRECTOR, THE NEXT GENERATION

What is a Christian? What is a disciple? What is the difference?

The term "Christian" appears only 3 times in the NT, while "disciple" appears at least 268 times in 252 verses depending on the Bible version. Jesus was popularly known as a teacher or rabbi (Mk 9:5, 11:21; Jn 3:2) and his associates known as disciples. Members of the early Church (Acts 6:1) were first referred to as "Christians" in Acts 11:26 to mean disciples of Christ.

In biblical times, being a Christian is synonymous with a disciple which in Greek (*mathētēs*) means pupil. Unlike modern education, ancient Jewish rabbinic pupilage is more akin to the all-encompassing and immersive tradition of apprenticeship. The Torah and all of life is the classroom. To be a disciple is to follow the rabbi, literally, in all aspects of life – to learn by observing and doing, by imitating what their rabbi said and what, why and how they did in reaction and relation to everyday life and the manner in which they lived. The task of the disciple was to become as much like their rabbi as possible in philosophy, worldview, values and behavior. So, when Paul

claimed himself Gamaliel's student (Acts 22:3), he claimed not only pedagogical pedigree but all the credibility and integrity of one disciplined under the great rabbi to persecute the Church.

Perhaps, the question is not what is a disciple, but who, and therefore who a Christian ought to be. It is not what we do or say that makes us Christian but who we follow by the life we live. Jesus' discipleship programme is far more radical than the rabbinic tradition. Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." (Lk 9:23 NASB). Jesus' call is for His followers to dethrone self and embrace a whole new identity, ("he must deny himself") and calling ("and take up his cross daily") in Christ, enthroning Him as Lord ("and follow Me")!

This is what "authentic discipleship" means in Covenant EFC's mission statement. Authentic discipleship is fundamentally about following Christ above all else with all we've got, in all situations, in all stations, and in all seasons of life, at work and ministry wherever God has placed us.

# Sermon Outline

## Maturity Through Authentic Discipleship

SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 5:11-14 • SERMON: PS IVAN HO

### Introduction:

Maturity is about growing our Spiritual ABCs:

#### A. Spiritual Appetite (v.11)

#### B. Spiritual Basics (vv.12-13)

#### C. Spiritual Choices (v.14)

### Conclusion

#### NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

28 JAN - PS LEE DA-WIN (BPJ), PS EDMUND WONG (WDL) AND REV TONY YEO (EAST)

# Last Week's Sermon Summary

## Mandate: Returning the Church to Her Disciplemaking Roots

SCRIPTURE: TOPICAL • SERMON: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

### Introduction

God created mankind for a purpose with a mandate to rule (Gen 1:26). Likewise He has a purpose for His Church. The heart or root of discipleship is simply the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. This is how the Church must look like and what the Church must do.

#### A. Return to the Great COMMANDMENT (Matthew 22:34-40)

There were three surprises in this passage which form the very heart/root of our faith:

1. First surprise: The expert in the law expected Jesus to reply with some law to keep. Instead, Jesus focused the question on a relationship rather than a thing to do. The heart of Christianity is about knowing God (Jn 17:3.) Failing here, we fail everywhere.
2. Second surprise: Jesus commands us to love God. That's surprising because how does one command emotions? That is unless the love Jesus speaks about is more than emotions. Indeed the expression of love according to God is obedience (Jn 14:15, 15:10; 1 Jn 5:3.) How are we obedient to the Lord?
3. Third surprise: Jesus replies with two commandments instead of just one. Loving another human being is second only to loving God and both of these are related. We cannot say we love Him but do not love one another (1 Jn 4:20). How are we loving one another?

#### B. Return to the Great COMMISSION (Matthew 28:18-20)

There are four "all's" in this text.

1. **All Authority:** We often respond faster to man's authority than to God's. Here, our Lord has been granted **all** rights to carry out His wishes. Will we take His command seriously?
2. **All Nations:** The scope of the commission is global. We are not merely to go proclaim to all nations, but to disciple all nations. Winning someone for Christ is challenging enough, so how are we to disciple all nations?
3. **All that God has commanded us:** We are not merely to teach them everything, we are to teach them to obey everything! How are we able to move people towards that kind of obedience?
4. **Always:** The above two are to help us realise the weight of the task (i.e. we are unable to carry out the Lord's commission by ourselves). That's why Jesus Himself is with us to enable us to do so. It is also critical to realise that the Great Commission is not merely about doing. Jesus being with us highlights the relational dimension of the Great Commission.

### Conclusion

That's what God has called the Church to do – to love Him with all our hearts, soul and mind and to bring that message of salvation so that all may experience that love. May 2018 find us living the Great Commandment and experiencing the Great Commission!