

» IDT & SFF SIGN-UP

We don't try to be disciples, we *train* to be disciples. Invest in your spiritual growth today! Join our Intentional Discipleship Training (IDT) or Spiritual Friends & Foundations (SFF) commencing on Jan 2017.

Be grounded with an understanding of God's redemptive plan and an experiential knowledge of a Spirit-filled life within a small group, with an emphasis on inner life transformation through personal discipline and a growing love for God's Word.

Application Period: 1 Oct–13 Nov 2016

Download the application form at www.cefc.org.sg or get it at the Information Counter.

For enquiries, email idtadmin@cefc.org.sg

» DISCOVERY WEEKEND

Courting couples, find out where you are in your relationship and learn how to grow together, as you honour God in all you do.

Date: 22 Oct (Sat)

Time: 8.45am–5pm (lunch and breaks included)

Venue: BPJ Centre

Sign up at the Information Counter.

For enquiries, email fic@cefc.org.sg

» BREAKTHROUGH WEEKEND (BTW)

Today is the last day of the early bird registration. Come with your CGmates. Register at voyager.cefc.org.sg. Do not be discouraged if you are in the wait list. We will do our best to make sure you get a chance to attend.

Men's BTW and Women's BTW on 2–4 Dec

Early Bird Rate: \$260*/pax

For enquiries, email menbtw@cefc.org.sg or womenbtw@cefc.org.sg

Marriage BTW on 25–27 Nov

Early Bird Rate: \$540*/couple

For enquiries, email marriagebtw@cefc.org.sg

*Rates do not include the optional transportation.

» STEP UP WELCOME TEA

If you have stepped up to serve, you're warmly invited to a special Welcome Tea where our Senior Pastors will share their heartbeat. You also get to meet your ministry representatives there. Look out for more details in the email sent to you. You can still sign up online at step-up.cefcapps.com anytime.

Date: 9 Oct (next Sun)

Venue and Time:

WDL Centre at 1pm–2pm

BPJ Centre Sanctuary at 2:30–3:30pm

» PARENTING TRAINING

If you are planning or expecting your first child, Parenting with Love is for you.

Dates: 5 and 12 Nov (Saturdays)

Time: 12pm – 5pm **Venue:** BPJ Centre

Fee: \$50/couple

Sign up at the Information Counter on Sundays or email fic@cefc.org.sg

» SERVE IN NEW LIFE

Do you have the heart to mentor children? Serve with us! We need at least 10 Volunteer Mentors for P.A.N.D.A Champs — a character-based mentoring programme for 7 to 10-year-olds.

Dates: 22 Nov–15 Dec every Tue 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).

» FLORAL OFFERING

Today's floral offering is sponsored by Tang Chee Weng, Angela Tan and Esther Tang in celebration of Ethan's fifth birthday.

BUKIT PANJANG 2 OCT 2016

SERVICE LEADER PS VALERIE CHAN // WORSHIP LEADER BENJAMIN AND SHARON TAN



Nine Hours

BY: REV TAN KAY KIONG AND REV TONY YEO, SENIOR PASTORS

This past week, Diana and I (Ps Kay Kiong) were at the hospital with another couple as they waited for the scan results to confirm if he has cancer. The day before, he was on a business trip when he suddenly felt a pain at the side of his abdomen. The next morning, thinking it might just be kidney stones, he went to the A&E for a check. After a scan, he was told that there was a mass in the kidney that would most likely be cancer. That shocked him. The doctor ordered another scan to confirm. They waited from 7 am till about 4 pm.

Can you imagine the agony? Yes, they prayed, trusted, and hoped in God. The final result — it was an unusual congestion growth in the kidney that looked like cancer. What a relief! But what a life changing moment, too!

A nine-hour wait can forever change your life!

This reminded us of James 4:13–14, “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”

Brothers and sisters, we are a called and chosen people. We are a people of praise and purpose. As we gear up towards the future, what is in your survival pack? Let us suggest three essential items:

God's Care: Without a strong foundation that is built upon the Lord, what will you stand on when trials hit? Everything else will be shifting sand except the Lord. All that we have amassed and accumulated, all that we have gained and experienced, will it prepare us for those moments of crisis? If we have not learned to trust in God's care, then what will we stand on?

Self-Care: When we sought God on the future of the church, it's amazing that He showed us Acts 20:28 “Pay attention to Yourself...” Spiritual, Mentally, Emotionally, Physically, God wants us to take care of ourselves. Only then can we take care of others and do the work he has given to us. That is why we are doing this Whole Life Inventory in the church so that we can know where we are holistically and then plot our way to greater health in God. I urge all who consider Covenant EFC as your spiritual home to do it today. (<https://www.wholelife.sg/inventory>) (access code: cefc)

Other-Care: At the end of our life, few things will satisfy us. But I know one of those things will be the spiritual care of others. This is where we pour our love and life into other precious lives so that they might follow in the pathways of God.

One day, some of us may wait nine hours to know our destiny. But perhaps that is not necessary. Because today, someone else's nine hours can help alter our destiny.



VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VALUES

GRACE
GROWTH
GODLINESS

COVENANT EFC

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SERMON OUTLINE



HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 5:25-30** Sermon: **REV EDMUND CHAN**

Introduction

True or False –

“The Bible teaches that wives should love their husbands, and that husbands should submit to their wives?”

“Husbands LOVE Your Wives”: Three Important Considerations -

A. Is Your Love WORD-Taught or WORLD-Taught?

“Just as Christ also loved the church...” (v.25)

B. Is Your Love SACRIFICIAL or SELFISH?

“...and gave Himself up for her” (vv.25, 29)

C. Is Your Love FAITHFUL or FALSE?

“...but nourishes and cherishes it...” (v.29)

Conclusion. “What can I do to make your day better?”

Next Week's Sermon Speakers:

9 Oct **PS EDMUND WONG** (BPJ) and **REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI** (WDL)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY



Beauty of Submission

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 5:21-24** // Sermon: **PS VALERIE CHAN**

Introduction

The Charge Given to the Husband and Wife on the Wedding Day:

- Everything concerning the wife and household are *all* the husband's responsibilities
- Wife to only do one thing: *submit* to husband's leadership

Single Women Considering Marriage to Ask Two Important Questions:

1. Can this man lead me spiritually? 2. Will I follow His leadership?

Two Reasons Why Submission Is Beautiful:

A. Submission Honours Christ (vv.21-22)

1. When wives submit to their husbands, they are demonstrating their reverence for Christ (v.21) and that honours Him.
2. When wives submit to their husbands, they are living out what it means to have a Spirit-filled life and that honours Christ.
3. In verse 21 “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ”, is actually a continuation of Paul's idea from verse 18 “be filled with the Spirit” — as it was meant to be one complete sentence. To be filled with the Spirit is to submit to one another! And we do it out of love as we walk in love (Eph 5:2).
4. Therefore, an evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is for wives to voluntarily, willingly and joyfully yield/submit to their husbands.
5. However, this submission to the husbands does *not* mean that wives are inferior to their husbands nor does it mean that this submission is only for the wives.
 - a. **Wives are not inferior to their husbands.** We are all created in the image of God (Gen 1:27) and redeemed as one in Christ Jesus (Gal 3:28).
 - b. **This submission is not only for wives.**
 - i. In the original text, the verb “submit” is not found in verse 22, the idea is taken and flows from verse 21.
 - ii. To submit is to honour and respect and to place oneself under the authority of the other.
 - iii. Submitting to one another as to the Lord means it is mutual submission — wife submits to the husband and husband submits to the wife.
 - iv. Eugene Peterson in The Message Bible, paraphrase the verses in this way for verse 22 to 23: “Wives are to understand and support their husbands in ways to show their support for Christ. Husbands to provide leadership to their wives the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing.”
 - v. It is a *demonstration* of two persons submitting to one another.

B. Submission Reflects Christ (vv.23-24)

1. Wives are to submit to their husbands, as the Church submits to Christ. The Christ who requires the Church to submit to Himself is a submissive person. His entire life on earth was lived in submission to God His Father, even though He Himself is God. Therefore when wives submit to their husbands, it is a Christ-like spirit.
2. It reflects Christ to the husband if he is a pre-believer or a husband who is not as godly as we think.
3. The wife with this Christ-like spirit submits to the husband's authority in everything (v.24).
4. The husband is given authority over the wife and this authority is meant to be *protective* and *redemptive* — to grow the wife to be more Christ-like.
5. It is a *demonstration* of what it means to come under the authority of husband.
6. There is a limit to submission: “We must submit right to the point where obedience to human authority would involve disobedience to God.” – John Stott

Conclusion

The testimony of a wife who submitted to her husband despite his unfaithfulness