



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

21 NOV 2021 | WE REVEAL GOD'S WISDOM | EPHESIANS 3:1-11

Series : Rediscovering Church | Speaker : Lam Zhengxin



WELCOME

[15 MINS]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)



WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Come Holy Spirit
2. Spirit Touch Your Church



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that the fullness of their Christian identity comes from knowing both the Old and New Testament.
2. Walk in God's wisdom and continually reaching out to the lost.

SERMON SUMMARY

The Church is a divine design, and we must model ourselves after how God has intended it to be. When we do that, the wisdom of God will be manifested to the world.

SERMON RECAP

In [Ephesians 3:1-11](#), Paul was writing to the Ephesians about the mystery and the wisdom of God's plan in creating a new people for Himself: the Church, made up of Jews and Gentiles. There are two parts in his message.

Part 1: The Mystery of Christ Revealed (v2-6)

'Mystery' here means something that has been hidden by God and we can only know it if God reveals it to us. God remains mysterious until He reveals himself and He has revealed Himself through the Bible. That is how we must come to know Him. Anything apart from that, there is a danger of constructing God after our own image. Similarly, it is only through Him that we understand what His design for the Church is.

1. The church is a divine design, and she must be centred around the person of Christ

- It is natural for us to see the church as a human institution, full of shortcomings and made up of imperfect leaders. Young people in the world are also increasingly sceptical or cynical of the church.
- We must know that the church is not a human institution. It is a God-ordained community carrying a divine design. It is not man's idea of organisational religion, but God's idea and it carries a mandate from God Himself.
- The life and vitality of the church must find its source in the person of Jesus. We must focus on Jesus, talk to Him, wait on Him, posture ourselves to listen to Him. The mystery of who Christ is has been revealed to us. Cherish it and continue to seek Him.
- Being a Christ follower and being the church means that we get to come into a relationship with the living God. This relationship alone is enough to sustain us, rejuvenate us, fill us with wonder, fill us with passion, give us meaning and purpose for our lives.
- This is the church's divine design: To be a God-ordained community that is centred on the person of Christ. Everything else is peripheral. We must be a people who hunger to know Him and desire to walk in obedience to Him.

2. The church is the continuation of what God has started in Israel through the family of Abraham

- To fully grasp what the church is, we need to understand and internalise the story of Israel. Israel's story is our story. Israel's history is our history.
- The church is the culmination of what God started in Abraham, and now includes both Jew and Gentile. We, who are Gentiles, now share in the inheritance and all of the promises made to Israel ([2 Corinthians 1:20](#)).
- We need to study and know the Old Testament well. If our understanding of who we are is divorced from our roots in Israel, we are deficient Christians having an incomplete identity as God's people.
- God made a covenant with Abraham, that Abraham and his people will be blessed, and that they will be a blessing to all nations. Through Moses, God revealed His character and His ideals through the writing of the Law. Through David, God promised to establish an everlasting kingdom. We join in all these covenants and promises. As Jews and Gentiles together, we are a part of what God has been doing throughout history, and we must know where we come from.

Part 2: The Wisdom of God Revealed (v7-11)

1. The church is the display of God's wisdom

- When we think of the church, we don't typically associate it with God's wisdom. We see more of God's wisdom in creation ([Psalm 104:24](#)). God's creation is full of amazing things, yet Paul says that the pinnacle of God's wisdom is in the gathering of the church - Jew and Gentile coming together.
- The church is the display of God's wisdom. It is seen in how He has brought two things which cannot co-exist – His hatred for sin and His love for sinners – into union in Christ. Without Christ, God looks at us with wrath and anger, because He is a Holy God. But because we are in Christ, we are made right and holy in His sight. The result, and the expression of this wisdom, is the church.
- Since the fall of man, when sin entered the world, the angels and the demonic beings have always wondered how God would bring about redemption. God's redemption plan was hidden until the appointed time. On resurrection Sunday, the mystery of God's wisdom was finally revealed. The Messiah would not

only atone for all of mankind's sin on the cross, but the Messiah would also conquer death so that all who placed their trust in Him would live through Him.

Conclusion

- It is God's wisdom to send His Holy Spirit to us, so that we might live out His purposes through the power of His Spirit, and not in our own strength. In His wisdom, God knows that we cannot live out the Christian life in our own strength, and with our own determination.
- Christians cannot live independently of the Spirit. All Christians have the Spirit of God. There is no Christian who does not have the Spirit of God. The question is: Do we talk to Him, walk with Him, and yield to Him? If we ignore the Holy Spirit or resist His promptings, then we have not walked in the wisdom of God, but in our own foolishness.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to touch us afresh and to awaken our passion and hunger for God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What is the connection between the church and the family of Abraham in the Old Testament? Why is it important to know the Old Testament?** [10 Mins]
2. **The church displays God's wisdom in reconciling His hatred of sin and His love for sinners. How can we live out this wisdom by loving sinners?** [10 Mins]
3. **Why do you think that there is growing scepticism and cynicism towards the church among believers these days? How can we address that issue?** [15 Mins]



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- We will keep our focus on Jesus and whenever we grow sceptical or cynical towards the Church, we will turn our attention back to Him.
- We know our identity as God's people and to hold on to His promises unwaveringly.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Thank God for the further relaxation of the COVID-19 measures.
- Pray for God's continual protection as we learn to live with COVID and begin to open up our borders.
- God's hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities, especially the old and the vulnerable.

3. COVID-19 in the World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

1. **With You This Christmas.** This Christmas, we are reminded of Jesus, whose name is Emmanuel (God with us) and He is God's gift of presence to us. We want to rally every RiverLifer to give the gift of presence and be with someone or a family this festive season so that they may experience Christ in their lives too! We will be distributing a Christmas postcard every Sunday for the next three weeks for you to give to a pre-believing individual. If you're keen on obtaining one, do join us in-person at church for service (rlc.sg/tickets-eng). Apart from giving this postcard to someone, there are a few things you can do:
 - Invite pre-believing family or friends to our English Adults Evangelistic Services on 5, 12 & 19 Dec. We will have two Christmas services on 19 Dec at 9am & 11am, and there will be prayer for healing. The e-invite can be downloaded here: rlc.sg/withyou-eng.
 - Reach out through food and fellowship. Think of an individual, a family or a community that you can bless and reach out to. Host them in your home, have a meal with them, pray with them and have Spirit-led conversations.
 - We have a special resource to get you started on reaching out. This resource contains conversation starters and recipes that you can use to bless someone this season. Link: rlc.sg/withyou-kit
2. **November Midweek Equipping – The Will of God vs. The Will of Man (The Calvinist-Arminian debate).** This Wednesday (24 Nov) is our final session in this series. The guest speaker is David Lim, Academic Dean of ACTS College. You can join via this link: rlc.sg/midweek.
3. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
4. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

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