



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

14 Nov 2021 | ONENESS | EPHESIANS 2:11-22
Series : Rediscovering Church (2 of 4) | **Speaker :** Pastor Ernie Song



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. One Voice
 2. Reward
 3. I Belong to You (Hillsong)
-



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. make unity a priority in our cells and ministries, that there will be no divisions and labelling within the church
2. embrace all kinds and types of people that come to our church and cells
3. participate in the common work and goal of the covenantal community (becoming like Christ and reaching the lost)

SERMON SUMMARY

Unity is a critical issue in the church today. Jesus does not want to return to a divided church. God's heart is for us as brothers and sisters to remain united. Because unity is a spiritual issue, we must understand it according to what Paul is teaching in Ephesians 2. Paul addressed the division between the Jewish and the Gentile believers within the Ephesian church. Similarly, when we deal with issues of disunity today, we must:

- remember who we are – we are sinners saved by grace.
- pay attention to our weaknesses – we have the potential to sin through our actions, words and attitudes
- consider others better than ourselves – we should focus on unity rather than on who's right and wrong

SERMON RECAP

Humility in Diversity (vs 11-12): As a church we must guard against anything that divides us. When dealing with issues of disunity, we must remember who we are (humility). We are all sinners saved by grace (there is none more superior than others), we are capable of being wrong and we have the ability to sin (through our thoughts, words and actions). When we have humility, our focus will be on unity rather than on who's right and wrong.

Salvation Impacts Our Vertical & Horizontal Relationships (vs 13-18): Christ as Saviour has become our peace that breaks down any wall of diversity. Therefore, the church must always be a place for people of all types, races, tribes and tongues. There must never be hints of racism or labelling in our midst.

You are Saved into a Covenantal Community (vs 19-22): Salvation is never apart from the church community. In this community, there is a common goal (mature into Christlikeness) and a common task (reaching the lost). When the church is united in our attitude, our goal, and our work, nothing can come against the church. It will be an unstoppable force of heaven here on earth.

Conclusion

When Jesus died for the church, He abolished all dividing lines between people. We all have the same starting point, where we are saved by grace. We all have a common goal, which is to mature into Christ's likeness. And we all have a common task, which is to fulfil the Great Commission to reach the lost.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Do you see salvation and the church as two separate entities? How has the sermon changed your view on salvation and the church?** [15 Mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question. We are saved by God through faith in Christ alone ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)) but we do not live out our faith alone. Salvation leads to a personal relationship with God which is “vertical” as we glorify and commune with Him. Yet, we must not miss the needed “horizontal” nature of salvation as well. Setting our minds on things above ([Colossians 3:2](#)), and not on earthly things, does not mean we are to ignore the community of believers who are worshiping with us. When we are saved into the body of Christ, we become a temple of living stones (collectively) who together live lives of worship to the Lord ([1 Cor 3:16](#); [1 Peter 2:4-5](#)).

For further reflection: The Unity of the Church

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-unity-of-the-church/>

Transition

We are not only to fulfil the Great Commandment to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength ([Mark 12:30](#)). We are also to love our neighbour who is with us in worship and in community. When we gather for corporate worship, we need to make sure we are putting the corporate into our corporate worship! In looking up, we must also look around.

2. **Is there a strained relationship you personally have or one you see within the Body of Christ? Share with the cell. What steps can you take to allow the finished work of Jesus to bring healing to this relationship? [15 Mins]**

Leader's Notes

A reflect and response question. Throughout the Bible we read of individuals and families who had their share of relationship issues, and we are no different on this side of time. We need to remind ourselves that one of the natural outcomes of a genuine faith is restoration in our relationships. Through Jesus' work on the cross, broken relationships can be restored by the power of His blood. God does not give up on people, and neither should we. If God could restore us back to Himself, He can certainly restore any broken relationship we have, no matter how broken or strained.

3. **God has created every church community with diversity, and for us to be a healthy community in RiverLife, we are encouraged to use our gifts to love and serve others. During this season of the COVID-19 pandemic, how do you think you can help strengthen our church so that we will emerge from this pandemic stronger? [15 Mins]**

A response question. You can break this down into two segments – serving with our spiritual gifts, and having the right attitude towards the church.

Serving with Our Spiritual Gifts

We are to use our gifts to serve others and to work together as parts of a body to make a functional whole. When we don't know our gifts or don't use them, the advance of the Gospel and the church may be hindered. But there is also a flip side to this situation. Using our gifts is necessary for our own personal spiritual health and building up our faith. Using our diverse gifts to serve one another needs to be reciprocal as well. You need your pastor to use his gifts of shepherding and teaching, but he needs us to use our gifts in other areas of ministry. The goal of exercising our gifts is to bring glory to God and build up the church. There are spiritual gifts assessments one can take (see below), but a simple way to discover the gifts God has given you is to look at needs and opportunities around us in church and in the community. Above all, be willing and purposeful to discover and use God's gifts.

Discover your spiritual gifts with this free online test:

<https://giftstest.com/test>

Having the Right Attitude Towards the Church

As a result of the pandemic, a lot of activities within the church has ceased – physical cell meetings, classes, congregational singing, fellowship, full-fledged services, etc. The life of the church is impacted during this pandemic. Therefore, our attitude towards the church during this season matters so that we emerge from this pandemic stronger, and not weaker. Ask your cell members to reflect on their attitudes towards the following 3 areas of church life:

- What is my attitude towards coming back for worship services or even to serve during the services?
- What is my attitude towards cell time? Am I a spectator or a fellow-builder?
- What is my attitude towards my spiritual community? How can I be my "brother's keeper" during this season?

Closing

The Cross offers the most powerful peace-making strategy ever designed. Jesus gives us a powerful model of loving others, and the power of the Holy Spirit to live it out. We are to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and even bless those who curse us ([Matthew 5:44](#)). If Jesus has given us the power to do all that, we can heal any disagreement or conflict within the church and keep our precious unity in our diversity.



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 make unity a priority in our cells and ministries, that there will be no divisions and labelling within the church
- embrace all kinds and types of people that come to our church and cells
- participate in the common work and goal of the covenantal community (becoming like Christ and reaching the lost)

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- God's continual intervention as we extend the Stabilisation Phase.
- God's 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. **Rediscovering Church (Ephesians).** This month (November), we are embarking on a four-part sermon series entitled Rediscovering Church. The pandemic has disrupted the way we worship, relate and serve in church, and changed how our cells and ministries function. We hope that this sermon series, based on Ephesians 1 to 4, will help us realise the importance of belonging to community and receive fresh revelation on what it truly means to be the Church, especially during such a time.
2. **November Midweek Equipping – The Will of God vs. The Will of Man (The Calvinist-Arminian debate).** This month's midweek equipping series is a 3-part session conducted online on 10, 17 and 24 Nov. The guest speaker is David Lim, Academic Dean of ACTS College. You can join via this link: rlc.sg/midweek.
3. **In-Person Worship Services From 1-30 Nov.** In view of the extension made to the Stabilisation Period, our existing service timings will continue for another month until the end of Nov – there will only be one in-person service at 9am for English Adults on Sundays. The capacity remains at 300 congregants. Our Youth service will increase its capacity to 150 pax in-person.

- Missions from Home.** We encourage all to get involved by praying, giving, or serving. Find out more about the different countries we're working with: rlc.sg/mfh. Join a MFH team: rlc.sg/mfh-serve
- 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>
- 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

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

- PayNow**

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200100806D.

- Interbank Transfer**

RiverLife Church Bank Account: *DBS Autosave 029-902431-0*
Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



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