

DATE: 27 AUG 2023 | SPEAKER: SP BEN KC LEE
TOPIC: MAKE US ONE, LORD | SCRIPTURE: [JOHN 17:20-23](#)

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Recognise the importance of Oneness in God and with each other
2. Commit to building the unity of the Church by loving God and each other as Christ does

SERMON SUMMARY

As we celebrate our 32rd anniversary, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and His desire for us to have a unity-centred life. He shows this to us in how the Trinity is united as One. He also prayed 3 times in [John 17:21-22](#) that we may be one. Christian unity puts God's character on display ([vv. 22 – 23](#)) and we are called to place His Kingdom and righteousness above all personal desires and preferences. Jesus desires for us to experience a connectedness to Him and each other, and that we also act as the bridge to connect the lost to Him through our unity.

The enemy's constant work is fracturing relationships. When unity is absent, it turns people away. A disunited Christian community denies the message it proclaims through its behaviours. A disunified Church is not in Christ.

It is important for us to keep in mind this goal Christ has for us and to fight for unity together, through our love and actions for God and each other. May we also adopt Jesus' heart's cry to be One in Him.

SERMON RECAP

We thank God for His faithfulness to us over the years and through the recent 21 days of prayer and fasting. We reveal Jesus through Oneness ([John 17:20-23](#)), displaying His personality, purpose and power. In today's world full of divisions, the Church has a real opportunity to point others to Jesus.

Jesus prayed for two things

1. **For Us to Become Perfectly One** – a Oneness is based on the shared life of Jesus. Following Jesus begins our heart's journey towards Oneness. He gives us His presence to make us One and we reflect His glory as we are being transformed into His likeness. The word "complete" in v.23 is "wholeness", being made whole in Christ as we abide in Him and He dwelling in us. We experience deeper intimacy with others as we grow closer to Him.

We are called to have the same Oneness Jesus has with the Father and to reflect this closeness we have with Father God in our relationships. This Oneness with God (inner spiritual reality) produces Oneness with community (outward cooperation and harmony).

2. **For us to bridge others to Him** – for us to be the bridge to connect the broken to Jesus. He prayed that we would overflow into the world and transform the world. He has sent us so that the world may see the Father. Our Oneness sets us apart and tells the world two things: 1) Jesus is from God and 2) God’s love is real as we express it in our lives. While people may have a hard time understanding and believing Jesus, they will be drawn to our relational Oneness as we learn to love God and each other well.

God’s love unites and unity only comes when we choose to love one another as Christ loved us. Oneness is in line with the Gospel. We are called to be peacemakers and to focus on what unites us. We can trust God to heal us as we journey with Him through reconciliation of hurts and divisions. With godly lives, Gospel proclamation and visible unity, we reveal the truth that God sent His son to reconcile us to the Father.

Jesus prays for us to be One and this Oneness is a reflection of the oneness of the Father and the Son. The church being a unified witness to others is a high calling and points people to Jesus to follow Him. Jesus’ prayer for us to be One means that it is possible in Jesus – we can desire what He desires and live in it fully. Make us One, Lord!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **God’s manifest presence is attracted to unity (Psalm 133, Acts 1:4, 2:1) He deeply desires for us to be united (John 17:20-23). What is unity so important for the Church?**
2. **What are some changes you would need to make or steps you would need to take (i.e., baptism, church membership) in your life if you are to pursue greater Oneness with Christ followers?**
3. **How is a united community a reflection of Jesus and share an example / experience of how it reflects Christ. What are some ways we can love the lost together as a Church?**

PRAYER

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

1. Sermon Application

- Pray for us to see the importance of Christian Unity
- Pray for us that God will search our hearts and reveal to us what is hindering us in our unity and growth as a Church
- Pray for conviction and strength as we take the step to grow in Unity in Christ and with each other

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church that as we have concluded the 21 days of prayer and fasting, we will determine to live in a new normal – one that follows after the example of Christ.

3. World

- Continue to pray for the Russia-Ukraine war and the avoidance of using nuclear weapons.
- Pray for Singapore as we approach the presidential election – that a Godly president will be elected.

- Pray for Hawaii as catastrophic wild fires are sweeping through the various islands and towns recover from the aftermath.
- Pray for the situation in southwestern China where rainstorms are triggering floods, resulting in dozens of missing people, and community devastation.
- Pray for the situation in Japan where radioactive water is released in to the Pacific Ocean.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- 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.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. Order your 'Make Us One' t-shirt! \$5 each (subsidised)

- Visit our booth in the Atrium to view sample sizes.
- **Order and pay online:** rlc.sg/32tee
- **Order period:** 26 Aug to 17 Sep 2023
- **Collection period:** 14 to 29 Oct 2023

2. SuperLife's Annual Missions Carnival. 10 September 2023.

SuperLife's annual Missions Carnival 2023 is back! This year, our children will be raising funds for 3 day-care centres in churches planted by RiverLife in Sarangani, Philippines. The funds raised from the carnival will cover construction and start-up costs, as well as one year of operational expenses including meals for children at the centre and salaries for teachers.

SuperLifers will be serving you at our Cafe in the Atrium on Sun, 10 Sep:

- Breakfast with usual cafe menu and some extra surprises (8am-9am)
- Brunch with a variety of finger food, mains & desserts (10.45am-12pm)

You can look forward to a special menu that includes Grandma's Chicken Curry, Country Chicken Stew and Ice Cream! Do come and have your meals in church as a way of supporting and encouraging our young ones.

3. Equipping – Making Sense of Spiritual Gifts (4 Sessions).

The twentieth century has been called the "Century of the Holy Spirit" as the world witnessed successive revitalisations of the Church through the enablement of the Spirit. This empowerment by the Spirit continues to open up new possibilities for the Church; but also presents old temptations. Join us for this equipping series as we pursue an in-depth study on 1 Corinthians 12-14 so we can heed Apostle Paul's advice not "to be uninformed about the gifts of the Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:1). Details:

- Fri, 15 & 22 Sep, 8-10 pm, Sun, 17 & 24 Sep, 11am-3pm
Venue: Worship Centre
- If you require lunch (\$7 each) for the Sunday sessions, please pre-order online by Mon, 11 Sep: rlc.sg/sg-lunch

4. Restoring the Foundations: Hope, Healing & Freedom (6 Hours). Sat, 30 Sep. 9am to 4pm Grace Chapel. \$40 for RiverLifers only (inclusive of lunch and materials).

This seminar will teach about the biblical basis of RTF. You will learn to identify Hinderances and Beliefs that are holding you back. Begin to receive the Freedom to fulfil God's plans, purposes and calling for you. This

Integrated Approach to Healing will enable you to receive Personal Restoration. Register by Mon, 25 Sep: rlc.sg/riverlifertf. Enquiries: mosessho@riverlife.org.sg.

5. **Joining The Family. Sat, 30 Sep. 10am - 1pm. Faith Chapel.** Joining The Family is a two-hour session that will help you understand what it means to be a son and daughter of this house. Learn about God's heart for the Church and His call for us to identify with a local body of believers. If you have been baptised, and you are a regular worshipper of RiverLife and belong to a cell group, we invite you to take the next step towards becoming a RiverLife family member.

Registration at rlc.sg/jointhefam (Closing Date: 24 Sep). Enquiries: karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.

6. **Water Baptism Class. Sat, 7 Oct. 9am – 3.30pm. Room 205 (Level 2).** Water baptism is a public declaration of a believer's union and new identity in Christ and an outward expression of our commitment in receiving Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour. If you desire to take the step of faith to be water-baptised, do join our baptism class to understand the significance and importance of baptism.

Registration: rlc.sg/baptism-class (Closing Date: 1 Oct). Enquiries: karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.

Note:

- Participants will have a one-hour lunch break at own expense.
 - Our upcoming Water Baptism Service will be held on Sun, 12 Nov at 2pm.
7. **Call for a Suitable Liver Donor.** Father of RiverLifer Beverly Lim is calling for suitable donors for his son, Ryan, who is in need of a liver transplant. Ryan was diagnosed with Autoimmune Hepatitis (AIH) that affected his liver and bile duct. On 22 May 2023, Ryan was brought in to see the doctor due to his bloated stomach and the doctor concluded that a liver transplant was needed for Ryan as his liver was failing. The donor needs to be of blood type A+ or O+, with no prior illness and someone with a healthy diet. Read more about their story in this salt and light article [here](#). Should anyone wish to enquire or volunteer, do contact Ryan's dad, Lim Cheng Kwan, directly at +65 9768 4748.
 8. **Marriage Preparation Course.** *For couples exploring marriage in the next two years.* 3, 10 & 17 Sep. Sundays, 11am to 3pm. Sign up online by Sun, 27 Aug: rlc.sg/mpc. Fees: \$50 per couple (Excludes US\$35 for PREPARE-ENRICH)
 9. **RiverLife Mission Trips.** Come serve with us on a Mission Trip this year-end!
 - **7-11 Dec (Thu-Mon) Christmas Celebrations with B'laan Tribe in Sarangani, Philippines**
Registration closes on Fri, 1 Sep.
 - Sign up for a trip at rlc.sg/missions-go.
 10. **Marriage Retreat.** We had a powerful time with 27 married couples in March as we piloted our first Marriage Retreat. It was a powerful time of learning, rejuvenation, healing and restoration for our couples. No couple left unimpacted. We would like to encourage married couples to join us at this retreat and experience God's hand on your marriage.
 - For more information, download the eBrochure [here](http://rlc.sg/mrBrochure): rlc.sg/mrBrochure
 - Highlights from previous retreat: <https://youtu.be/csHrCtBsuWg>
 - Link to signup: rlc.sg/mr

CHURCH CALENDAR

1. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 3*
 - Bible Equipping – Making Sense of Spiritual Gifts: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
 - Joining the Family – 30 Sep
 - RTF HHH Seminar – 30 Sep
- *Quarter 4*
 - Baptism Class – 7 Oct
 - Parents Gatherings – 28 Oct
 - Leaders Huddle – 5 Nov
 - Baptism Service – 12 Nov
 - Equipping Series - Leviticus: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
 - Marriage Retreat – 24 to 26 Nov

2. **YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).** The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are currently in a cell, register your attendance with your cell leader. If you are currently not in a cell, do register online: rlc.sg/YAgathering-apr-reg.

3. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel.
- *RiverLife Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel (livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights)

CHURCH MINISTRIES & OPPORTUNITIES

1. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.
 - Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
 - Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve
2. **Global Hunger Fund.** This fund will go towards RLC's mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the Digital Bulletin for more details.
3. **Missions Microsite.** Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.
4. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcar>.
5. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

RESOURCES & CONNECTING WITH US

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp

- 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
 - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
 - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)
2. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search **'The RiverLife Podcast'** on Spotify.
 3. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
 4. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.
 5. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
 - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
 - **Telegram Channel:** t.me/RiverLifeChurch
 - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

GIVING LINKS & QR CODES

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Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: DBS Autosave 029-902431-0

Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



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