

Series - Be Wise

Date/s - 2 June 2019

Topic - How Can We Stop The Spirit Of Division In The Church
(1 Corinthians 3:1-17)

Speaker - Pastor Lionel Goh

Welcome [15 min]

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

www.thesource4ym.com/games/

www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html < go to LEAD, click on ICEBREAKERS >

Worship [15 min]

You may select songs like “Here I Bow”, “What A Beautiful Name”, “Overcome” or “All Hail King Jesus”.

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Understand what causes the spirit of division in the Church;
2. Commit to stop the spirit of division in the Church; and
3. Commit to preserve the bond of unity in the Church.

Word [45 min]

Pastor Lionel opened his sermon by sharing from John 17:21, which exhorts the importance of unity between Christ-followers.

The Corinthian Church had a serious problem of division, among its members. This division was largely caused by:

- Exalting human wisdom (1:20-21)
- Exalting human leaders (1:12, 3:4)

Because of their divisiveness, Paul considered the Corinthian believers to be childish, worldly and carnal – see 1 Cor 3:1-4. Paul understood the serious damage that division could inflict upon the Church. So he urged them to stop this spirit of division from festering.

Pastor Lionel then shared three ways we can stop the spirit of division in the Church:

- First, by recognising that our church leaders are mere servants of God (3:5-9). Pastor Lionel shared further that the Church must never divide over human leaders! They are simply God’s servants, working together and fulfilling His purpose - it is God whom we should focus on.
 - a. God assigns each leader to perform a specific task (3:5-6)
 - b. All of God’s servants work together to serve His purpose (3:8-9)
 - c. God’s sovereignty decides on how each ministry will grow (3:6-7)
- Second, by focusing on building God’s Church (3:10-15).
 - a. Every believer is called to build God’s Church (3:10-11, Eph 4:11-12)
 - b. Each builder has to decide how he will build (3:12-13). There is the wise builder, and the foolish builder. We build with quality material by serving with a pure motive (1 Cor 4:5) and the right conduct (2 Cor 5:10).
 - c. We will receive God’s rewards for all eternity according to the quality of our work

(3:14-15).

- Third, by refusing to engage in destructive behaviour (3:16-17), lest the Lord disciplines us. We must remember that we are God's temple- God's Holy Spirit lives in us, making His Temple holy.
 - a. There are destructive people who seek to harm the Church (Rom 16:17-18, Rev 2:20)
 - b. Jesus loves His Church deeply (Eph 5:25-27). He will never allow anyone to harm His Bride, without coming to her defence and punishing her assailant.
 - c. Paul warned the Corinthians not to follow divisive people and harm the Church, because God will destroy those who seek to destroy His Church (3:17, Rev 2:20-23).

Pastor Lionel concluded his sermon with a call for us to seek God on our gifts and talents, and use them to serve God's church in RiverLife.

Discussion Questions

1. **What are some controversial issues in the Church today, which tends to stir up a divisiveness amongst its members?** [10 min]

2. **Read through 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. What truths can we learn from this passage, about God and about human leadership, that will result in humility and boasting in the Lord Jesus, and not in man?** [10 min]

3. **In the ways you spend your time and resources, have you been more like the wise builder, or the foolish builder? What are some struggles preventing you from building with quality materials and serving with the right conduct?** [10 min]

4. **Read 1 Cor 3:10-11 and Eph 4:11-12. God has called every believer to build His Church! What are some steps you can personally take to build the Church, both in RiverLife and beyond?**

Works [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. We will always seek to maintain peace and unity in RiverLife.

Announcements

1. Filipino Combined Service

Reflecting His Glory (Speaker: Pastor Tony Lee)

Sun, 9 Jun | 2pm | Victory Chapel

Great opportunity to invite your Filipino colleagues and their families, as well as domestic helper to come experience the love of Christ and gather in community with others from their hometown.

There will be a time of fellowship over tea reception after service

2. SPYCES

Suns, 30 Jun – 28 Jul | 1:45 – 5.00pm | Faith Chapel

Spiritual Parenting Of Young Couples. Register at the Information Counter by 16 June 2019. For enquiries, please contact Christine Tan at 65114141 or email her at christinetan@riverlife.org.sg.

3. Forum on Sexuality

Sun, 23 Jun | 2-4.30pm | Worship Centre

Register online via bit.ly/rlc-23jun-forum or at the Information Counter (Level 1). You may purchase lunch coupons at \$5 each at the Information Counter.

Church Vision:

“A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations.”

Mission:

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.