

Series - My Life for His Glory

Date/s - 8 September 2019

Scripture - 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

Speaker - Pastor Joachim

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 “You You Are God”, “This I Believe (The Creed)”, “Saviour King” or “Reward”.

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Understand that we are created to glorify God with our lives;
2. Learn how to exercise our Christian freedom, especially in the grey areas of life where the Bible may be silent on.

Word [45 min]

Pastor Joachim preached a sermon on 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1, centred around the call for us to glorify God with our Christian freedom.

Pastor Joachim started his sharing with a brief background of 1 Corinthians 10. We learnt that one of the main problems the Corinth church faces, was the issue of what they should do in the areas of life that the Bible is not explicit about (grey areas). Paul's careful address of this issue begins in 1 Corinthians 8, and he builds up his argument to reach its pinnacle in 1 Corinthians 10. Pastor Joachim summarized 1 Corinthians 8-10 as follows:

- 1 Cor 8: In the grey areas, you are free, no problem.

But there are two considerations

- 1 Cor 9: How will it affect others?
- 1 Cor 10: How will it affect you?

Pastor Joachim then shared the main message in v 31 - whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, do it all for the glory of God. The question to ask ourselves today is whether we are living life for His glory. Sharing from Colossians 1:16 and Isaiah 43:7, Pastor Joachim reminded us that we are not the centre of the universe - instead, all things (including us) have been created through God and for God. God's glory is the goal of all things. We are made to glorify God and enjoy Him forever (Westminster Shorter Catechism). God not only delights in our worship; He demands our worship!

Pastor Joachim next shared two guiding principles from Paul, to keep in mind when we aim to glorify God with our Christian freedom, in the grey areas of life in which the Bible is not clear about or is silent on:

- **First, we recognise that we must practice edification over gratification.**
 - Drawing from various scripture references in 1 Corinthians 10:23 and 1 Corinthians 14:26, Pastor Joachim explained how not all things edify, even if they are permissible. An example of this would be watching TV. It is permissible but the question is – does it edify? “How can you pull down the strongholds of Satan if you don't even have the strength to turn off your TV?” -

Leonard Ravenhill.

- **Second, we must put others before self.**
 - o From passages in 1 Cor. 10:24 and Matt. 22:37-39, we see how we have a spiritual obligation towards one another, to seek the good of the other. To Paul, freedom does not mean seeking his own good, but to be free in Christ in such a way that one can truly seek to benefit and build up another person.

Let's worship God in the exercise of our Christian liberties - not in a way to tear down others, but to build others and ourselves up.

Summary Of Sermon

1. When we approach decision-making in grey areas, our aim must be to glorify God. (10:31)
2. We can do this by:
 - a. Practising edification over gratification (10:23)
 - b. Putting others before ourselves (10:24)

Discussion Questions

1. **If the Bible is silent on grey areas, what then informs our stance on these issues? How can we know that we are making a decision "for the glory of God"?** [10 min]

2. **What does it mean to choose edification over gratification? What is edification?** [10 min]

3. **Think about where and how you spend your recreational and leisure times. Keeping in mind the two guiding principles shared by Pastor Joachim, do your hobbies and choices of entertainment, express or advance your holiness?** [10 min]

4. **What practical steps can I take, to make better decisions in the grey areas of my life?** [10 min]

Works [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. At all times, every RiverLifer will choose to bless and glorify Him.

Announcements

1. Water Baptism Class

Sat, 28 Sep | 9am-3pm | Faith Chapel

Register for this class at the Information Counter by Sun, 22 Sep. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at 6511 4139 or email her at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg. Our next baptism service will be on Sun, 17 Nov

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.