



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Wings & Weights
Topic	The Church, Your Spiritual Family
Speaker	Ps Joey Bonifacio
Date	12 th and 13 th September 2015

Message Summary

Centring Our Church on Fellowship

Sermon key text: Acts 2:36-47

In this message, we are reminded that the church is like a family – it is our spiritual family – and that there is no such thing as a perfect family. Regardless of our backgrounds or our stories, we should focus on what binds us together as a church. It is not what we organise, but what we *are*. Ps Joey highlighted two elements that make a church what it is: Christ-centredness and fellowship. We must commit to making both central to our church life.

Defining Christ-Centred Fellowship

1. The church must be centred on Christ

Ps Joey emphasized that our church must be Christ-centred. He gave the example of other churches that have lost sight of this, and became primarily vision-centred, mission-centred, experience-centred, etc. As Acts 2:36 says, “...God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah”. We must acknowledge that Christ is Lord, and that He is the head of our church.

Christ-centredness involves recognizing that:

- Jesus is Lord
His Lordship needs to apply to all areas of our lives (e.g. marriage) and the roles that we are engaged in (e.g. as a husband, father, etc.). In Acts 2:38, his disciples are told to “repent and be baptized”. As the word “repent” signifies heading in the direction of Christ and away from what we’ve been doing, our role is to respond in obedience to his commands (and not just accept the salvation and grace we’ve been given). Likewise, being “baptized” means being immersed in the things of God. For instance, communion is not something we do only in church; in fact, every time we pick up “bread” and “wine” outside, we should use it to remember our covenant with God.
- Jesus is our hope
Our hope is not on this earth, but in Christ. We look forward to not what this life offers, but that of eternal life.
- Jesus gets the glory
We remember that all glory goes to Him, and not to people.

As a value that we hold, Christ-centredness must reflect in our actions. One example given was that of being punctual for church. Many of us would aim to be on time for a movie, yet allow ourselves to be late for church. When we are late, Jesus is no longer the center of our worship.



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2. The church must be centred on fellowship

Acts 2:42: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer.”

This verse tells us that as believers, we should be devoted not just to learning His word, but also to fellowship. Being “devoted” means to set things aside and take time for an expressed purpose, in this case, fellowship: spending time with fellow believers, learning about others, and praying for one another. Even within our community, we are commanded to trust those who are untrustworthy, forgive people when they are unforgivable, and love those who are unlovable. Through acts of fellowship, we grow as Christians.

Fellowship is marked by:

- Shared lives (Acts 2:44)
We share our lives across culture, economic statuses, and other differences.
- Gladness
- Generosity (Acts 2:46)
We hold an attitude of gladness and a heart of generosity to others. Whenever we gather in a small group, we come happy, ready to give and bless, to create a welcoming atmosphere. For some of us, this requires a willingness to give beyond what is easy to do.

We learn of the importance of fellowship in Acts 2:39 – fellowship extends beyond us to affect our future generations and people who are “far off” i.e. have yet to know Christ. The purpose of church is not only to sustain people already in it, but also to welcome sinners and pre-believers. We need to ask ourselves if we are reaching out to those who are far off from God. Acts 2:47 shows us that through fellowship, we will enjoy favour with people. As the church becomes a place for people, it will grow, and the Lord will add to our numbers, in line with our ultimate mission to bring others to Christ.



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Questions

1) What are the 2 central elements that make a church what it is? List an example for each.

(Fill In Answer Here)

2) Share your personal challenges and rewards of living a Christ-centred life. How can you grow towards Christ-centredness?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3) In what ways is your cell marked by shared lives, gladness and generosity? What is one way your cell can strengthen its fellowship?

(Fill In Answer Here)