



CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Building Relationships Beyond Self
Topic	Moving Beyond
Speaker	DSP Chua Seng Lee
Date	7 th and 8 th May

Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: Becoming Counter-Culture Christians

BBTC has entered into a focused season of looking and living beyond church walls. DSP affirmed and exhorted the church to continue to live beyond our comfort zone, but now with a particular need to examine and engage culture as Jesus did; to be counter-culture. Expositing Matthew 5: 14-16, we learn two key principles necessary to become counter-culture Christians. Firstly, to be “salty” believers – that our standards are God’s and not the world’s. Secondly, to be shining examples – that we may be people with lives of good works which give glory to God.

“Salty” Believers

The basis for these two principles are found in Matthew 5:13-6. With regards to being “salty” believers, DSP emphasized that if our lives have the same flavour of the world, then what good are we to the world? (See Matthew 5:13) As such, we must ask and know experientially for ourselves what the flavour of one who follows Jesus Christ is.

One practical handle provided by DSP to achieve that is to guard our company (1 Cor. 15:33). Pointing to 3 Ps that cause many a Christian to stumble (Pride, Pleasure, Power), especially if such issues involve ungodly company, one more P comes to mind – Purification. We must fiercely guard the saltiness of our lives, settling for nothing less than a purification of the heart. For otherwise, if we are the same as the world, how can we expect to influence them as would bring glory to God?

DSP also pointed to how, as seen in the Bible, our lives should be ones full of energy and intentionality. Warning the congregation from the words of John 10:10, we recognize that the spiritual warfare goals of the devil include stealing, killing, and destroying our lives. In the same verse however, we see that Jesus says he came not just so that we may have life, but to have it *abundantly*. The application of this is as such: as we seek God, and experience His goodness, let us share with those around us what God has been doing in our lives! Though we may not be able to “force the horse to drink the water”, by being “salty” Christians ourselves, we can help others know and experience the salt of Jesus for themselves, that they may thirst for more. This then, is how we help others see both the desperate need for Jesus, and also His ability to abundantly love us above and beyond.

Shining Examples for Christ

The second principle which we find in Matthew 5:13-16 is seen in verse 16. Jesus tells us to “let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

DSP gave the illustration of a lit cross against the backdrop of a pitch black landscape. Whereas salt interacts and mingles with a medium, light stands in contrast, and makes visible the way forward. Quoting



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David Platt, DSP exhorted the congregation to take to heart what it means to be consistent Christians who live lives and care for social issues as according to the standards of God, and not our preferences.

As Christians, we cannot pigeonhole ourselves into focusing on just one issue and disregard the others. This is not to say that God does not place certain burdens on our hearts that we are definitely responsible for in a greater capacity. Rather, it is to say that that the *same heart* which is subservient to God in seeking His Will for that particular burden, should be burdened for the most pressing issues of the time. For at the heart of most pressing issues, are most pressing burdens upon the lives of others, and we cannot say we love God and not love our fellow human beings.

DSP pointed to the most pressing issues of Singapore's society such as inequality, poverty, and unmet social needs. There are several BBTC ministries which are looking to bring God's love and light into these areas of need, from the Tamar Village ministry to the Taxi Driver ministry. All these are encouraging examples of God's people being unafraid of the darkness, and having God's heart and holiness to not shirk away from the darkness, but to overcome and reach out to those living in darkness.

As for the church, the most pressing issue would be that of the family. The family is being radically defined by society in all forms and manners, and the church needs to know where it stands on this issue and how it can best speak into and serve people on this particular issue. On a personal level, we must then ask ourselves "what am I going to do?" in light of the knowledge that the family is a most pressing issue.

Conclusion

Being counter-culture Christians is both about guarding our relationship with the Lord zealously, as well as being aware of the most pressing issues of society and bringing God's light and love into them. The acronym "PLEA" provides a framework for:

Pray for the nation & church.

Love all sinners.

Educate/Engage the community on sexual sins.

Advocate in both times of peace and war.

In doing so, we do not do so out of our own standards, convenience, or power, but by the power and love of Christ, that all may know and experience for themselves the love and light of God.



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Questions

1) What does it mean to be the salt of the world and how can you guard your life so that you don't lose this "saltiness" of yours?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2) What are some ways in which you might choose to hide your light, whether knowingly or unintentionally? What can you do to let that "light" shine?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3) What are the most pressing issues in your own life? In society? How can God's love and truth be involved in those areas, that will result in you being salt and light?

(Fill In Answer Here)

4) In light of knowing that God's ways and not the worlds' ways are the best ways for both the individual and society, what is one thing you can do to realize God's love and truth in your life and those around you?

(Fill In Answer Here)