



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC House Rules

SPEAKER Gary Koh

THEME Living the Christ Life

DATE 24 & 25 Apr 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Speaker Gary Koh opened the sermon by emphasising the importance of relationships: our vertical relationship with God and our horizontal relationships with people around us. He cited John 17:21 which showed the heart of our Lord in His prayers to His Father in heaven. Jesus prayed that his disciples (i.e. us) can be one as He and His Father are one. Our Lord Jesus desires for us to be one in God. When we are one in God, then the world will believe that our Heavenly Father sent his Son Jesus Christ to save the lost.

Like every household which has its own unique set of house rules, we who are in God's household also have a set of house rules which determine how we relate to one another. Speaker Gary Koh summarised these rules from Scripture:

1. We are ONE Family
2. We serve OTHERS with our Gifts
3. We get along with ONE ANOTHER

HOUSE RULES

1. We are ONE Family

Ephesians 4:4-6 emphasises the oneness of the Christian faith. There is one body and one Spirit, and God called us to have one hope. We, the body of Christ, are one. All of us are looking towards one hope – our Lord Jesus. We have one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.

There is one God and Father of everything. He rules everything and is everywhere and in everything. This reveals to us the sovereignty and the power of God. He, alone, rules all creation. We are subject to his loving rule. He gives us the principles of living life through His Word, the Bible.

This oneness gives us clarity and focus. God made everyone unique. Each individual is different in personality, talents and temperament. Yet we, with our uniqueness, are to serve God in unity.

2. We serve OTHERS with our GIFTS

Speaker Gary Koh expounds on the five-fold ministry. In Ephesians 4:11-13, Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip His people for works of service and to build the body of Christ up. This five-fold ministry is for us to reach unity in the faith

and mature in the knowledge of the Son of God. Apostles are sent out by God to tell people about who God is while prophets point others to God. Evangelists proclaim the good news to the people, pastors take care of His flock and teachers teach the Word to His people.

We, the Church, use our different gifts to prophesy, to serve, to teach, to encourage, to give, to lead and to show mercy. All these builds up the Body of Christ to prepare for the second coming of our Lord. We should not be divided but we should exercise our unique talents to work together in love.

3. We get along with ONE ANOTHER

Speaker Gary Koh expounds on Ephesian 4:2-3, which tells us to be completely humble and gentle, patient and bearing with one another in love. We should make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. This set of instructions is very difficult to practice as all of us are fallen. However we humble ourselves in front of God and allow our potter to mould us. With God, it is possible.

Each of us have different and subjective standards. We should not apply our own standards on others. Rather we should remove the plank in our eyes and learn to extend grace to others, while upholding biblical, godly standards.

Ephesians 4:25-27 tells us to speak truthfully to our neighbour. However, we should avoid speaking in anger. No matter how angry we are, we should not pass on anger to others. It is human to get angry, yet we need to deal with our anger by seeking God's help. It is important to avoid keeping the anger in our hearts because this gives the devil a foothold into our lives. Confess the anger to God and humbly seek His help.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we are ONE family under God. We are all different, yet united as one in God. We avoid division and celebrate our differences by serving one another with our various gifts.

At the core, our hearts reflect our attitudes. We are instructed to get along with ONE ANOTHER. A loving and humble attitude is the right posture to take when we live together as ONE family in Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. What is one rule in the household you live in? How does it reflect God's love or love for others?

2. What is one gift you have? How do you use this gift to bless God and others?

3. What are some common conflicts or problems faced by Christians in their interaction with one another? How can we keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace?