



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** The Call to Discipleship

**SPEAKER** SP Chua Seng Lee

**THEME** GOFORTH

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

As we welcomed the new year, SP shared his prayer for the BBTC community—that we would grow in Christlikeness and be known by others as a disciple-making church.

## THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Paul wrote Galatians to address serious theological misunderstandings in the early church. Christians were being taught that they had to undergo circumcision in order to be saved, which is untrue. In Galatians 2:15-16, Paul points out that ‘a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.’

Paul had tried his utmost to obey the Law, thinking that doing so would make him a better believer. However, this proved exhausting and futile. In verse 19, Paul concludes by writing that he has ‘died to the Law, so that I might live to God.’ Paul stopped striving to fulfill the law, accepted God’s righteousness through faith and began living for Him instead.

In verse 20, Paul continues: ‘I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.’ Paul’s old self had died and Christ now lives within him.

How can we become more Christlike, as Paul had, and overcome the reality of sin in this fallen world? Galatians 2:20 gives us three principles that can help us do so:

### 1) I have been crucified with Christ

We often think about how we must ‘crucify ourselves’ or ‘do more’ for God. However, to be crucified *with* Christ means we have already died to ourselves—we enjoy salvation and a relationship with God due to Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and not our actions in the present day.

Discipleship means surrender, not increased commitment. When Jesus tells us to ‘take up our cross daily’ (Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23), He is referring to a radical, decisive surrender where we declare: ‘No longer I, but Christ in me’.

## 2) I live by faith in the Son of God

We should not be entertaining sin since we were crucified with Christ and have been forgiven by God. Nonetheless, we are still tempted by it as we live in a fallen world. Even Paul acknowledges this inner conflict in Romans 7:19: 'For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practise the very evil that I do not want.'

We cannot overcome sin through sheer human effort—it is faith in God that overcomes the flesh. As Paul writes in Romans 6:14, 'sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under the Law but under grace.'

According to the Bible:

1. We're not sinners trying to be holy. We're holy people who are tempted to act like sinners.
2. We don't fight for victory. We fight from victory.
3. The battle isn't to become righteous. It's to believe we are already righteous in Him.
4. Holiness isn't something we can achieve. It's something we receive when we are in Him.

Spiritual maturity is reflected in how fast we bounce back from sin. Sin may hold us down and wreck us with guilt, or keep its hold on us so we continue to sin. A spiritually mature disciple does not allow sin to capture them; they repent, trust God and move on, holding onto faith in the finished work on the cross instead of their own effort.

## 3) I am loved by Jesus

Paul refers to Jesus as someone 'who loved me and gave Himself for me.' Jesus' love for us is active, not passive—He sacrificed Himself for us. The Lord's Supper is a poignant reminder of this love. In 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Paul says that 'the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose on their behalf.'

We should aim to live for Christ, leading crucified lives by anchoring in the love of God and remembering Galatians 2:20—that we have died to ourselves and Christ lives in us.

## CONCLUSION

SP prays that we start the year right by living a life of faith in the Son of God who gave His life for us. He hopes that BBTicians will be seen as people who are motivated not by performance or results, but by faith and the love of God.

# QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to lead a 'crucified life'? How have you reflected and experienced this in your own life or in a Christian you admire?

2. SP shared some principles from God about our nature as believers: that we are holy people who are tempted to act as sinners, that we are fighting from victory, that we are righteous in Him, and that holiness is something we receive when we have faith in Him. Which of these principles resonate with you the most, and why? Share your thoughts with your cell group members.

3. To be a disciple means dying to ourselves and living for Christ. In this new year, what mindsets do we need to shift in order to live for Christ?

