

# Sunday Service ~ September 7, 2025

## Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

### Welcome & Prayer

*"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? <sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" <sup>4</sup> These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. <sup>5</sup> Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God." (Psalm 42:1-5, NIV)*

Let us pray.... Dear Lord, our soul pants for you this morning. We long to be in your presence. We long to worship you with others in person but today we can't, despite all our good intentions and so we come to you by ourselves this morning or with our family around us. We need you. We need you like we need our food and drink. We need your presence, your forgiveness, your love, your grace, your help and power. So give us more of you today. Let us see more of your glory as we sing our songs. Let us hear more your character as we listen to your word. Let us experience more of your goodness as we pray. And draw us closer to your people as we sing the same song, pray the same prayers, listen to the same sermon, even if we are in different locations today. Help us this day to truly worship you in spirit and in truth. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Song – Only a Holy God [Only A Holy God- City Alight - YouTube](#)

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| 1. Who else commands all the hosts of heaven<br>Who else could make every king bow down<br>Who else can whisper and darkness trembles<br>Only a Holy God<br>What other beauty demands such praises<br>What other splendour outshines the sun<br>What other majesty rules with justice<br>Only a Holy God | 3. Who else could rescue me from my failing<br>Who else would offer His only Son<br>Who else invites me to call Him Father<br>Only a Holy God<br>Only my Holy God! |
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*Come and behold Him  
The One and the Only  
Cry out, sing holy  
Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God*

2. What other glory consumes like fire  
What other power can raise the dead  
What other name remains undefeated  
Only a Holy God  
Come and behold Him  
The One and the Only  
Cry out, sing holy  
Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God

### Bible Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 (NIV)

*"As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. <sup>2</sup> For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> It is God's will that you should be*

sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honourable, <sup>5</sup> not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. <sup>7</sup> For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. <sup>8</sup> Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit. <sup>9</sup> Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. <sup>10</sup> And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, <sup>11</sup> and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, <sup>12</sup> so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody."

## Announcements

**Focus for Month: Godliness.** At the start of the year, we wrote "**God's grace both saves us and transforms us. The Gospel opens the door for people to have a relationship with God and become more like His Son Jesus. Godliness should be the result of the believer as they respond to both God and the gospel. These three components God, Gospel and Godliness should be the foundational to everything that the Charlestown Church should be doing.**" How are we going with that? In September we want to remind ourselves that the way that grace and the gospel changes us is through growing in godliness!

**New City Catechism: Question 37.** How does the Holy Spirit help us? The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, comforts us, guides us, gives us spiritual gifts and the desire to obey God; and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word. **Bible Passage Ephesians 6:17-18** "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints."

**Fitout of new redevelopment.** The COM is looking for ideas (and dreams) about what extra work we could do on the Church properties to spruce them up to help us make the most of the substantial investment we are making with the new redevelopment. Currently we think we might have anywhere between \$20-50,000 left in our redevelopment budget. If you have an idea could you please email [stephen.taylor@cpres.org.au](mailto:stephen.taylor@cpres.org.au) by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September with your suggestions and a rough idea of the costs involved. If you want more background information, just check the email that Stephen sent you this week.

**Recharge Men's Conference.** Last chance to sign up for Recharge is TODAY. Location: Grace Evangelical Church. 7:30-1pm. Topic: The Church – The Bride, the Household, the Dwelling place. Speaker: Roger Burgess. Cost, \$50. Under 25, \$20. Men, it's a great morning of teaching and fellowship, you would be crazy to miss it!

**Next AM Sermon Series: Godliness Is...**

14.9	The result of suffering	<b>James 1:2-12</b>
21.9	Its goal is eternity	<b>2 Peter 3:10-14</b>

**The Christian Health Professionals Network** are meeting for prayer at Belair Baptist Church on Saturday 13th of September, 7:45am-10am followed by morning tea. For more details or register go to <https://chpn.com.au/events/>.

**Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child** is on again this year. Boxes-\$1 and Starter Packs- \$8.50 available each week at the end of the service. Please note Postage and Handling payment (\$12.50) is to be done online at OCC or included in your box. Please contact Kathryn O'Callaghan for more information. Last week for collection will be Sunday 28th September.

**Next Swansea Ladies Morning Tea** is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 10am at Channel Cafe Swansea. Next Swansea men's morning tea is on the same day, at the same time but at the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club. Don't get confused and go to the wrong one!

<b>July Finances:</b>	Budget offerings	\$37,583
	Actual Offerings	\$35,873
	Deficit for July	\$1,710
	Deficit for Jan-July	\$983

## Pastoral Prayer

**Pray for Mozambique.** (Population 35 million, Christians 19 million). In Mozambique Churches are burnt down, pastors are abducted, and many Christians are killed. Pray for courage for Christians living under the threat of attacks by Islamic extremists. That Christians facing pressure for their faith will hold onto Jesus. Pray for safety especially in the north with the rising threat of Islamic extremism where Christian women and girls acutely vulnerable to abduction, sexual violence, forced marriage and domestic slavery.

**Pray for revival.** Sovereign Lord, we plead with You to pour out Your Spirit afresh, that Your Church may be revived in truth, holiness, and love for Christ. Forgive us where we have grown cold, complacent, or distracted, and restore in us a deep hunger for Your Word and boldness in prayer. May our own congregation be a shining witness to the gospel, so that many are drawn to repentance and faith in Jesus.

**Pray for Vanuatu.** Pray for Cheryl and Stephen as they gather a team for our next mission in January 2026. Pray for opportunities to teach, train and work alongside the Christians at Hog harbour and Walaha. Pray for the logistics of putting the mission together, especially when it comes to transport and organising building projects.

**Pray for the most vulnerable in our community.** Gracious Father, we thank You that You are the defender of the poor and the refuge of the vulnerable. We confess how often our world overlooks or exploits them, yet we rejoice that Christ identifies with the least and offers them the riches of His kingdom. By Your Spirit, move us to show mercy, speak truth, and reflect the gospel in how we love and serve those most in need.

## Song – Jesus is His name

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_EQfqseU2qA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_EQfqseU2qA)

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|---|--|
| <p>1. A light has dawned, shattered the darkness<br/>Heaven has sent the promised one<br/>Son of man, son of the Father<br/>The light of the world has come</p> | <p>3. The prince of peace, hope of the nations<br/>Justice and grace for rich and poor<br/>He will reign, ever exalted<br/>Jesus the risen Lord!</p> |
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### Chorus

The heavens declare, angels proclaim  
Shepherds cry out, the Christ has come to save  
He is our light, he is our hope  
He is our gift of life  
Jesus is his name, Jesus is his name

### Alternate Chorus

So let us declare, boldly proclaim  
Sing and cry out: "the Christ has come to save"  
He is our light, he is our hope  
He is our gift of life  
Jesus is his name, Jesus is his name (repeat)

2. Immanuel, clothed in our likeness  
Humbled himself, to make God known  
Death he chose, paying our ransom  
Rising to claim his own

## Bible Reading – Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV)

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity,*

*lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

## Sermon – Godliness is ... for all of life! (Stephen T)

Sermon link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkaMdFzjml8>

Today Australia is a multi-cultural nation. Which means that we have been blessed by having people from all over the world now living with us. They have left their old way of life and swapped it for a new way of life. And that takes a while for them to get their head around. There are new surroundings, new laws, new expectations, new people & new Churches. Which means they will need to think and act differently. Yes, many will connect with people from their old country and enjoy a close-knit fellowship around many of their old ways. But they can't stay in that cultural environment all the time because they now live in a new place

And after a while, many of them, like my dad, decide to become Australian citizens. Which means they can get a new passport, they receive new rights and they adopt a new identity. They are now Australians. For some that means dual nationalities but for others they need to renounce their previous citizenship. But for all of them living in Australia means a whole new way of life.

Slide 2

That I think is the big idea from Colossians 3. Paul is writing to the Church in Colossae and in chapter 1, verse 2, he describes them as *"God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ."* Here are people who now have a dual citizenship. For they were once just citizens of Colossae but not they have a new identity for they are now "In Christ." And being "In Christ" means a whole new way of life.

Slide 3

Not based on rules, or laws, or coercion but relying on the relationship that they now have with Jesus Christ. They are no longer just citizens of Asia Minor, but also citizens of heaven. Likewise, we are not just Australians or Kenyans or Ni-Vans or South Africans, we Christians have our spiritual home, our real home in heaven **with Christ**. Which means we have a new address, a new set of clothes, a new attitude & a new community. And each of those things will shape not just who we are, but how we live. Godliness then will be about all of life.

Slide 4

### 1. Starting with A New Address (verses 1 – 4)

*"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."*

When you trust in Jesus, you are no longer defined by this world, what you do in this world, what relationships you have in this world, where you live in this world. I am no longer just a minister who has a wife and three kids and who lives in Australia. I am primarily a child of God, a brother to Jesus Christ, someone with the Spirit of God in my heart and whose real home is heaven. That's who I am. That's my real identity. So, I should act like that person.

Slide 5

Because being in Christ means that what happened to Jesus has not just been of massive importance to the history of the world but it is something that you and I get caught up with as well. Jesus died, was raised, is now seated in heaven and will one day come again in glory. And we are not just spectators to those things but do you realise we are also participants.

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Colossians 2:20 says "**Since you died with Christ.**" Christ didn't just die but we have died as well. To the life that condemned us and kept us away from God Himself. That sinful life, that life that was controlled by self is now dead. Because Colossians 3:1 tell us that "**You have been raised with Christ.**" Christ rose from the dead and he brought with him all those who are in Christ. Christ is now seated in the heavenlies and our current life, according to verse 3 "**is hidden with him**". Heaven is our new home & that will be confirmed when Christ appears in glory and we also appear with him having been totally cleansed and **glorified ourselves.**

Do you get that? Your new address is both in Australia and in Christ. Currently you have a physical home, Lake Macquarie and a spiritual home, in heaven. So, which one should influence you more? Which identity do you need to grasp more and more? It's your new identity in Christ, isn't it? So, to help us do that Paul says "*Set your heart on things above.*"

Prioritise that. Focus on that. Value that. If you focus just on the things around you, that's only any good for the short time you are still alive here on earth. But if you instead look to Christ that will be good for both the now & the time to come. So set your affections, your hearts, your desires on Christ & also set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

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Think about him. What does it mean in practical terms to live for him? What's his aim for our life while we live in Lake Macquarie? Its holiness, isn't it? Godliness. Well, what's that going to look like? Well, it won't be a life following rules. Legalism just doesn't work. It won't be filled with guilt, that just makes you turn inward and forget about the forgiveness of your sins. It's not about shame, that is just going to rob your joy of being in Christ.

It's about seeing your life is hidden with Christ. It's about preparing to live with him for eternity in glory. It's about being captivated by Christ and aligning our passions with His. Its about "*putting to death whatever belongs to our earthly nature*". Realising that this is not going to happen without a fight. It's dealing dramatically, actively, with the things in our life that Jesus would not be pleased with. Being ruthlessly self-aware of the wrongs things that we are doing; honestly looking for another way to live because we now live at a new address

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After the dedication of a silver statue of Empress Eudoxia, near his cathedral, the Bishop John Chrysostom preached a fiery sermon, drawing a parallel with Herodias, who had sought the head of John the Baptist. He was soon hauled before the throne where the following exchange took place.

Eudoxia "Do you not know that I am an Empress?" John Chrysostom : "You cannot banish me, for this world is my father's house." Eudoxia: "Then I will kill you." Chrysostom: "No, you cannot. My life is hidden with Christ in God." Eudoxia: "I will take away your treasures." Chrysostom: "You cannot, for my treasure is in heaven." Eudoxia: "I will drive you from your people, and you will have no friends left." Chrysostom:

"No, you cannot. I have a Friend in heaven who has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' You see where we live should affect how we live. And secondly it will affect the type of clothes that we wear.

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## 2. A new set of Clothing (verses 5-14)

*"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways; in the life you once lived."*

Before you became a Christian there was a certain type of lifestyle that you inherited from living in Colossae or living in Lake Macquarie. And it firstly had as part of its identity a sexuality that is going to come under God's just judgement. This sexuality is all about me. My identity, determines by my sexual orientation. My desires for sex should be able to rule my actions. Which means lust, greed & self-desire is at the very heart of my sexual experience.

And that will manifest itself in sexual immorality, taking part in sex outside of the bounds of marriage and sexual impurity, using sex not as something to give to my marriage partner, but something I can take from anyone who is willing to share themselves with me in this way.

Now why does Paul start with sexual sin, is this yet another example of Christians being consumed with robbing others of their fun? No, it is because sex touches us in the deepest way possible and so if we get this wrong, its strong desires will take a hold on us and will affect other aspects of our lives as well.

Tim Keller pointed out a number of years ago that in his experience there were large numbers of young people who once called themselves Christians but then started adopting the sexual experiences that the world around them was offering. And that over time that drew them away from God and opened the door for them to intellectually reject a God who would restrict such freedoms. You see sexual desires are that strong. Sexual identity is that persuasive. And that is why Paul warns us that those who are **in Christ** should not find themselves **in bed** with those who are not committed to us **in marriage**.

Now I am sure we all know of people who have fallen for some sort of sexual sin and it has destroyed marriages, broken up families, ended careers, split Churches and trashed the reputation of the gospel. And friends if we are not careful that can be you and I. I've seen it happen to my colleagues and I keep telling myself that could be me. Which means I need to keep putting to death anything that might open the door to this sort of behaviour.

But on the flip side I have also seen believers repent and turn from this sort of sinful behaviour and even forgive that sort of sinful behaviour in others and there we see the power of the gospel is stronger than sin, stronger than greed, stronger than sex.

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But it is not just sexual sin that has this sort of power over us. So does social sins, especially speaking sins. *8 "But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other."*

The human mouth can be like a sewage pipe dumping rubbish on the people around us. For when we lose control, attack one another, speak rudely or crudely, we can do incredible damage. So, we need to open ourselves up to the power of Christ to change that part of our lifestyle as well. For probably more relationships have been destroyed by the tongue than anything else. But once again Christ has the power to help us deal with our tongue. And so just as I have seen many problems start because of a lack of control over our tongue, I have also seen the power that Christ can give people to heal that damage and to change baked on behaviours & difficult personality types. But it normally happens over time.

And then there is lying. Not one of us here always tells the truth. But lying reduces trust. And causes divisions and troubles. I love the story about Bishop Candler preaching on the lies of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 who said to his congregation, "If God struck down people for lying where would I be?" The congregation snickered at the thought. And he continued. "I'd be right here, preaching to an empty church." To which I would add, I would only be preaching if I had pre-recorded my sermon and it was being played by video!

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You see our new identity, in Christ, means we will put on new clothes. Off with the old and on with the new. Imagine, only doing half of that. Playing a game of soccer on a muddy pitch and getting home and taking off the old clothes and having a nice warm shower and then putting those soccer clothes back on! That would be crazy, wouldn't it? But here Paul is saying we take off our grave clothes and put on our grace clothes. Rid ourselves of our old clothing *"and put on your new self which is being renewed in the image of its creator."*

Slide 12

What does that sort of clothing look like? 12 *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness & patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*

Slide 13

The clothes that should define us are compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness & patience. All qualities that perfectly describe Jesus. Which makes sense doesn't it? We are living at his address and we now get to clothe ourselves in his garments. And we learn about forgiveness. For we have had a personal experience receiving Christ's forgiveness, so that too must rub off on us as well. And we cover it all like an overcoat with love. Self-sacrificing love.

Friends one day when we get to permanently live with God in heaven, we will be all clothed with the white robes of righteousness, Christ's righteousness. In the meantime, we have access to his wardrobe. We have a new address, a new set of clothes and thirdly

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### 3. A New Attitude (verses 15-17)

And the key to that attitude is thankfulness. 15 *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. **And be thankful.** 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God **with gratitude** in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God the Father** through him."*

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In July 2016, a contractor installing the gas pipes at the Bankstown-Lidcome hospital, mixed up the supply lines & mislabelled the nitrous oxide line as oxygen & vice versa. That was incredibly dangerous. For if we are connected to the wrong line, what is powering our bodies can bring about death rather than life. For an attitude of grumbling, complaining and fault finding can lead to soured relationship but a spirit of thankfulness can lead to super relationships.

Being thankful can give us a peace not only in our hearts but in our relationships with others. Filling our voices and lungs with songs of gratitude puts us in the right spirit to learn from God and from one another. Doing all things while giving thanks to the Father is the oxygen we need to live the sort of life that God wants us to live.

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When thankfulness becomes the posture of our hearts in everything and we are shaped by peace, filled with the word and living out our worship then it becomes the spiritual pulse of everyday life. Complaining produces a flat lined monitor. But thankfulness is a sign of Christian life. The Spirit of God is pointing us back to who we are in Jesus and reminding us of the good things we have received from our father God and that just overflows in how we live because it becomes our heart beat and drives our attitude in everything we do.

Godliness then becomes an option for us in every facet of our lives. Just look at what Paul has been saying in this chapter alone. It's going to affect how we live with the people around us, verses 5 to 11, both sexually and socially. It is going to affect our Church and community life, verses 12-17, as we seek to live at peace with them. It's going to affect our households, verses 18-21 as we structure our home life around the ways of Christ. It's going to affect how we deal with our workers & our bosses, verses 22-25, treating them with the dignity they possess as someone made in the image of God & it is going to affect the non-Christians around us, chapter 4:2-6, as we make the most of every opportunity to point them to Jesus.

You see our identity in Christ touches every aspect of life—our words, relationships, work ethic & daily choices. Being raised with Christ shapes our conduct in the home, workplace & community. It isn't just about Sunday worship, but Monday to Saturday living. In fact, being in Christ and having a thankfulness for all that God has done for us should affect absolutely everything we do. Because *"whatever you do, whether in word or deed, (we) do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

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Is that how you see yourself? Is that how you look at your life at present? A few years ago, I heard about artist Alessandro Palombo was creating striking artworks of homeless men by replacing the original figures with pictures of the Pope in the same posture. Palombo was doing two things. Showing the Pope's solidarity with the homeless and also showing the homeless that he sees them as men who have the possibility of new life within them. If only they could see themselves through God's eyes.

Slide 18

That's similar to what Paul is doing here. He is a painting a picture of what we are and what we will become in Christ. Forgiven, changed, godly, beautiful inside and out. Because Christ is our new address, we are currently being clothed with Christ and our attitude is being changed to become more like Christ. But lastly this is not just about what God is doing in you and me. But what God is doing in us as a Church family. For he is also working on

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#### **4. A New Community.**

Let's go back into our passage and have another look at it from the point of view of the Church. You see if put to death those sexual sins and those social sins, then that will reduce the level of hurt that we cause on each other, won't it? And if we realise that according to verse 11 that *"there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all."* Then we will not divide ourselves and only hang around groups of people who are like ourselves. We will see that in our diversity we all pick up different aspects of being in Christ. For Christ is in all of us. And so, the way we treat our fellow brothers and sisters would be the same way that we would treat the physical Christ.

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And that should lead us to peace. For as the peace of Christ rules in our hearts, we see we are members of the one body and are called to peace. That means we will better watch our tongue. We will want to avoid harsh debates and quarrelling. As far as it is up to us, we will want to live at peace with everyone else. As far as it is up to us.

Which means we will put the word of God at the centre of all that we do and say as a Church. Not just on Sundays but midweek. And we will not just be consumers of the word of God we will share it with others. We will teach and admonish one another because it is not just the leader's job to do that, but all of our



jobs, to make sure that what we are learning about God is passed onto others. And one way we can do that is by singing.

Friends when we sing, we declare our praises to God and we also communicating something to the people around us. So how you sing says something! Are you like many males out there, just mouthing the words? No sing as if you believe what you are singing. Are you willing to raise your hand, tap your feet, close your eyes, well if you feel like it, do it because that says the words of the song is not just interacting with your mind but your heart & soul.

Remember how drab the services were during COVID when we couldn't sing? Well, we can now, so let's sing with gusto and in a way where we don't care if we get the notes wrong or come in at the wrong time, it doesn't matter. We are singing with gratitude in our hearts.

One of my privileges as a minister is to run funeral services which means that at Christian funerals we sing. And for me to see the heart broken husband or wife, or father or mother still singing when they have lost their loved one sends a powerful message to me and those around them. It says, "Yes, I am sad but I am also thankful. Yes, I am heartbroken but in my heart is the Lord Jesus and I still will praise him even when my life is at its lowest ebb."

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Growing in Godliness is being part of a new community, Christ's body. It is being filled with a new attitude, one whose heart beat is thankfulness for all that God has done for me in Christ. It is about taking off the old clothes of sinful behaviour and clothing ourselves in Christ. And it is about having a new address, where our home is in Christ and with Christ.

For friends it is not just those who were born in another country that have adopted a new citizenship. All Christians have. Our home is no longer here on earth but there in heaven. We might see ourselves still stuck in the mud of sin but God has removed us from that sort of quick sand and he now sees us as Christ-like. And if that how he sees us. Isn't that how you and I should want to live from now on?

Slide 22

Godliness is a whole of life thing. That comes from our lives being made whole by Christ. So go on. Live life to the full. *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

## Song – Live for the Kingdom

1. Hear the good news, repent and believe  
Follow the saviour and everything leave  
Taking the yoke that's easy and light  
Dressed for the battle equipped for the fight  
Learn from the master to sacrifice all  
Glady obeying his call  
Live for the kingdom all of our days

2. Love one another, care for the lost  
Learn to live simply and carry your cross  
Jesus is near so stand and be strong  
Lift up your hearts in the victory song  
When you're mistreated be certain to bless  
Seeking his righteousness

Chorus. Now is the moment, the day of salvation  
This is the hour to be serving the king  
Bearing the gospel go to the nations  
Now is the time for our tribute to bring  
And live for the kingdom  
And give God the glory and honour and praise

3. Learn to pray daily your kingdom come  
And may your will on this earth soon be done  
Forgive our sins as we forgive  
Strengthen us while in these bodies we live  
So we might work for that glorious day  
When sin and death pass away

**Benediction.** *"17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* (Colossians 3:17)