

Brief Perspective on The Joy of Being in Community

Imagine yourself browsing through the books in a bookstore on your day off.

All of a sudden, the title of one particular book catches your eyes - **The Complete Chronicles of BCEC by Jesus Christ**. You dropped all the books you have in your hand and reached out for this particular book.

You were as excited as a kid, in a toy store. A thousand questions filled your thoughts, 'Is this for real?', 'I am stunned', 'Am I on Candid Camera or on TV?'

Where do you start? Well, I would turn to the last page to find out how the church turns out.

The joy of being in community is a wonderful journey of faith. Colossians tells us that the body must hold fast to the Head (2:19).

When we are holding fast to the Head, something wonderful happens. The Head nourishes the body, He holds the body together, and grows the body.

There will be a final term report card on how the body is holding fast to Jesus.

If we pass, it will be a glorious day of rejoicing in Heaven. The bride is finally united with her Groom. On that day, there is no more crying, no more death, no more sin, no more mourning, and no more pain.

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Warming Up

1. What are some reasons people (including Christians) go into isolation?
2. In your experience, how is the Christian community different from the other communities that you belong to?

Into the Passages

Community by Him - read Colossians 1:18, 2:19, 3:1

3. Who is the Head of the community (the church)? What role does the Head of the community have?
4. What does the passage in Colossians 2 tells us about physical togetherness verses spiritual connection to the Head?

Community through Him - read Colossians 3:5-17

5. How does a transformed Spirit-filled life looks like? Contrast this to the old life some Colossians were living.

Community for Him - Read Rev 21:1-4

6. How does the image of a glorious ending for the Church encourages us?

Moving Forward

We sometimes joke about being American Born Chinese (ABC), British Born Chinese (BBC), or just British (JB). The issue of culture being used to divide the people of God is not new and were answered by the Apostle Paul in chapter 2 verse 11. 'Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave free; but Christ is all, and in all'.

So, could you come up with an acronym to end it all? Here is mine, CBP (Christ Born People).

Life Together

Let us give thanks (not just now but constantly) to God for placing us in BCEC and that BCEC exist because of what Jesus has done.

Take time to pray that the individual members in the BCEC community are personally connected to Jesus and that we (the body) seek what the Head (of the body) wants us to do.

Pray also for your leaders (Rev. Han) who watches over you.

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These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

Into the passages

Community by Him - read Colossians 1:18, 2:19, 3:1

3. Who is the Head of the community (the church)? What role does the Head of the community have?

Jesus Christ is the Head of the church. The Head is connected to the body by joints and ligaments. The Head nourishes the body and grows the body.

4. What does the passage in Colossians 2 tells us about physical togetherness verses spiritual connection to the Head?

There were disagreements within the church. Although they were physically together, some had evidently lost spiritual connection to Jesus (the Head) and were espousing different teachings (about food and drink, festival, new moon, Sabbath, asceticism and worship of angels) that detract from the supremacy of Christ. (verse 16)

Community through Him - read Colossians 3:5-17

5. How does a transformed Spirit-filled life looks like? Contrast this to the old life some Colossians were living.

The Spirit-filled person is compassionate, kind, humble, meek, patient, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in hearts to God. Apparently, some Colossians continue to indulge in sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness (idolatry), anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk. The key is transformation.

Community for Him - Read Rev 21:1-4

6. How does the image of a glorious ending for the Church encourages us?

In the ultimate, there will be a glorious end for the Church of God. Jesus will be faithful to prepare His bride (the church). Let us not missed out by walking faithfully with Jesus, being empowered by His Spirit to live in His community.