

Sermon Topic: Building A Culture of Family by Mr Wee Tat Chuen

Sermon Outline:

- A. Understanding The Fatherhood of God (Psalms 139: 1-6)
- B. Building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4: 11-13, 15-16)
- C. Healthy Boundaries (Galatians 6:2, 4-5)
- D. Practical steps for a local church

A. A CULTURE OF FAMILY BEGINS WITH KNOWING GOD AS FATHER WHO THOROUGHLY KNOWS US

Psalms 139: 1-6

¹You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. ²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. ⁵You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

- We only know ourselves as God searches us. God is not only omniscient (ie. All knowing); He also knows us. The former is a theological statement, the latter brings to light that each of us is a child of God.
- The beauty of the Fatherhood of God is reflected as Oswald Chambers reflects on these verses.

“Thou art the God of the early mornings, the God of the late at nights, the God of the mountain peaks, and the God of the sea; but, my God, my soul has further horizons than the early mornings, deeper darkness than the nights of earth, higher peaks than any mountain peaks, greater depths than any sea in nature — Thou Who art the God of all these, be my God. I cannot reach to the heights or to the depths; there are motives I cannot trace, dreams I cannot get at — my God, search me out and explore me, and let me know that thou hast.”

- There is no sin that surprises God and puts Him off beyond his reaching out to us, a supernatural intimacy of God.
- While it is not a guarantee, in general, the person who realizes that he or she has received much grace or forgiveness is able to extend a greater extent of grace or forgiveness to others.

B. A CULTURE OF FAMILY BUILDS UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

Ephesians 4:11-13, 15-16 (NIV)

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- Having experienced the grace of God, we should seek to help one another to attain the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

(You will never know the fullness of Christ until you know the emptiness of everything but Christ – Charles Spurgeon)

- If we are not careful with how we help each other, we may be building a family that is very different that God has in mind for us. **How to build?**
- We are reminded that we are given gifts to build up the body of Christ; we can only be fruitful if we abide in Him.
- The way to one another is blocked by one's own ego, Christ opened the way to God and one another, but only through Jesus Christ we are able to do so. It is vital that we look to Christ and keep him our first love and Lord as we strive to build up the body of Christ.
- The various ministries are effective channels and present great opportunities of how we can extend support and build up the body of Christ by partaking in the various duties and planning that is required for the development of the church and the AMC family.

C. A CULTURE OF FAMILY OBSERVES HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

²Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else,⁵ for each one should carry their own load.

- We run the risk of nurturing unhealthy ways of carrying the load of others instead of their burdens.

Quotes from Henry Cloud:

Carrying own load and one another's burden – "Boundaries define us. They define what is me and what is not me. A boundary shows me where I end and someone else begins, leading me to a sense of ownership. Knowing what I am to own and take responsibility for gives me freedom. Taking responsibility for my life opens up many different options. Boundaries help us keep the good in and the bad out. Setting boundaries inevitably involves taking responsibility for your choices. You are the one who makes them. You are the one who must live with their consequences. And you are the one who may be keeping yourself from making the choices you could be happy with. We must own our own thoughts and clarify distorted thinking."

- **The ability to say healthy "Nos"** – "We can't manipulate people into swallowing our boundaries by sugarcoating them. Boundaries are a "litmus test" for the quality of our relationships. Those people in our lives who can respect our boundaries will love our wills, our opinions and our separateness. Those who can't respect our boundaries are telling us that they don't love our "no". They only love our "yes", our compliance. "I only like it when you do what I want."

