

**Sermon Topic: THE CHRISTIAN'S IDENTITY AND FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS
(PR RICHARD SEOW)**

1. You are a child of God. (John 1:12)

- Our basic identity is that we are a child of God
- When we become Christians, we are born into a family with many children, children of God, therefore we are all siblings to one another. Brothers and sisters in Christ.

2. You are a member of the universal Church. (1 Peter 2:9-10; Galatians 3:28)

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

- To have a sense of community, emphasis on community not an individual. Eg. Calling of missionaries, the church comes together to pray and discern God's leading and guidance on whom to send out to the mission field and continue to cover those missionaries as they do God's work in the mission field.
- We are all ONE body of Christ, ONE church. There is no division of race, gender or country.
- How then can this belief in a universal church of Christ be practiced?
 - Interest and concern over what happens to Christians elsewhere. – giving support and prayer (1 Cor 16: 1-4)
 - In our bulletin, we pray for the surrounding churches around us,
 - To pray for Christians who are placed in situations that do not allow them to worship God and proclaim their faith freely.
 - Through our involvement in mission interest in the work of church in other country.
 - All of us are called and should be involved in mission work. It could be in the form of prayer, going out to the mission field or supporting the team financially.

3. You are an integral part of the local church. (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27-31; Acts 2:42-47)

Purpose: So that the body of Christ may be built up.

- a. For mutual encouragement (Heb 10:24-25)
 - i. Spur one another to love and do good deeds. Not only on Sundays but also through our cell group.
- b. For mutual comfort (2 Cor 1:3-4)
 - i. God allows difficult seasons in our lives to mould and shape us and in return when other go through their difficult season, we can be ready to come alongside them to encourage and support.
- c. For mutual accountability (Gal 6:1-2, cp Matt 18:15-17)
 - i. If a person sins, go and tell him, so that we may help to restore the person not to judge them but to remind them to repent and go back to God.
 - ii. To keep each other in check

All that and more can be achieved through involvement in a cell group.

- To fulfill the above 3 aspects, we need to know some people well in the church.
- To be able to care for others and to have someone to care for you.
- Don't be a island / rock
- Be connected to the local body of Christ
- Be vulnerable.

Discussion Questions

1. As a child of God, how can you live out your belief in the universal Church of Christ?

2. As a cell group, what can you do actively so that the belief in the universal Church of Christ is relevant and practical, beyond a weekly recitation?

3. What more can you do to grow your life as a member of the local church? How else can you invest in others so that they too may grow in their life as a member of the local church?