

Consecrated and Consecrating by Pastor Christopher Seah

“Reformed and Relevant” is one of the guiding principles of our Church. We want to be a Church that is conformed to the Reformed Christian tradition. And we believe that this tradition must be allowed to address the hopes and fears of our society. To that end, I have taught Bible studies on God and politics; the role of song in the Church; and Abraham Kuyper’s lecture “Calvinism and Art.” My hope was that through those studies, we would see that even the earthly spheres of authority are ultimately religious because Jesus is truly Lord of all realms.

But another desire I had for those studies was to help us adopt yet another gesture toward the world—not just “Reformed and Relevant” but “Consecrated and Consecrating.” We are not simply to *speak* the Word of God to the world. But we are also seeking to *conform* the world—to the extent that it is possible here and now—to the Word of God.

And why would we seek that? Because our Father seems to be leading us in that direction. In the Scripture, we find the instruction to glorify God in our bodies (1 Cor 6:20)—and that doesn’t mean only for twenty-four hours on the Lord’s Day. Then we are called to do all things to the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31). Then we are encouraged to do all things in the Name of our Lord Jesus (Col 3:17). Then we are told that “everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving...” (1 Tim 4:4). And then we are exhorted to work for our earthly employers “as you would Christ” (Eph 6:5)—and God did not have only Christian bosses in mind. In other words, all things in culture that are lawful and good can be taken up by Christians and made a holy service to God and Christ.

Of course, Scripture (and sanity) also requires us to admit that not everything in culture can be consecrated. A rap song that oozes profanities can never be made holy. Nor can prostitution ever be done to the glory of God. Nor can spousal abuse ever reflect the love of Christ. So just because we advocate consecrating culture does not mean we think every conceivable thing in culture can be consecrated. Many things are vile and to consume them is to be corrupted, to carry fire into our chests (Prov 6:27)—yea, even to commit suicide.

That said, our culture-making God hasn’t allowed us the ease of full retreat either. Instead, he hints at a Day when even common household items will be sanctified (Zech 14:21-21). This will be a Time of holy toaster ovens, holy tables and chairs, holy pots and pans, holy shelves, holy laptops, and holy cars with holy hubcaps.

Since such a Time is coming, we follow the example that our heavenly Father has set: We begin devoting our cherished possessions—bodies, time, clothes, skills, relationships—to God. We must ask: “**How can ____ be used in the service of God and his holy people?**” True, some things can be used more directly for the Glory than others. A Christian book is more immediately devoted to God than *The Straits Times*. But one way or another, all good things must serve the Lord who

gave them to us. So we use *The Straits Times* to remind us to pray for the nations. And we use our jazz music and trips to the gym to help us enjoy life so that we would not be discouraged by Satan, so that we would not be lured from the Kingdom, so that we can maintain a state of sufficient mental and physical wellness to serve Jesus with joy...and so on.

But consecrating culture cannot happen if we don't have consecrated hearts. If we are not consecrated, we will most certainly be consumed. Instead of transforming culture, culture will transform us. We will end our lives in the creation rather than the Creator. So set apart Jesus as Lord in your hearts (1 Pet 3:15) and consecrating culture and its products will come more naturally. Let us pray: "Dear heavenly Father, enthrone Jesus Christ in our hearts. Make us long to see all things conformed to Christ's rule. Make your Word our hearts so that we might re-make our worlds according to your Word. In Jesus' Name we pray, amen."

Announcements

1. Welcome to our worship service this morning. It is good to be in the House of the God on the Lord's Day to give praise and worship to our covenant God.
2. There will be Lunch fellowship today. All are welcome.
3. Prayer meeting for the months of February and March is on every Thursday at 7:30 pm.
4. The congregation is encouraged to let the Committee know which areas they would like to serve in the newly formed church organizational structure. Each person in-charge of a ministry will form a sub-committee when he has received enough number of people who would like to serve in the particular ministry. Please seriously pray and ask the Lord for direction and make yourself available for His service.
5. Next week's message: "The Prophet Hosea Calls God's People to Repentance" (Hosea 1:1 – 2:1)

LORD'S DAY

9.30 am Worship Service
11.45 am Sunday School
Bible Study

THURSDAY

7.30 pm Prayer Meeting

2011 THEME

"The Baptized Nation"
(Gal 3:25-27)

Activities	13 February	20 February
Preacher	Pastor Christopher	Pastor Christopher
Worship Leader	Pastor Christopher	Pastor Christopher
Pianist	Yaw Kai	Lynette
Usher	Kok Yeow	Erry
Adult Bible Study	Pastor Christopher	Pastor Christopher
Refreshments	Serene	Joyce
Lunch Coordinator	Lai Har	--
Librarian	Yun Nong	Yun Nong
	This week	Next week
Prayer Leader	Clifford	SEG
Church Cleaning	Yaw Kai's SEG (19/2)	Gary's SEG (26/2)

"We are drifting toward a religion which consciously or unconsciously has its eye on humanity rather than on deity." *A. Begg*