



## Loving People, Not Worshipping Them: A Biblical Warning

Article by Seethor Chee Keen Pastor, Chinese Congregation

An idol is anything that takes the rightful place of God in our lives. Rarely do Biblebelieving Christians today look to an image, statue, or object for blessing, help, or guidance. But does that make idolatry obsolete in the church?

Interestingly, the apostle John ended his first letter with, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." (1 John 5:21). He didn't speak of idols anywhere else in his letter. He wrote at length to explain how we may know we have

eternal life in Jesus Christ. What is this "idol" then? John may be thinking of the more deadly problem of anything in the world, including a person, who successfully competes for the rightful place of God in your heart and life.

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### When People Become Idols

Relationships, though a blessing from God, can quickly become unhealthy when they occupy a place in our hearts that belongs to Him alone. A person can thus become an idol in our life, resulting in the idolatry of people.

While Scripture calls us to love one another, there is a fine line between honoring people and idolizing them. This kind of idolatry can take place in any relationship—romantic,

marital, parental, or even with friends, mentors, and leaders. Romans 1:23 warns that the essence of idolatry is "exchanging the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man..." We cross that fine line when anyone takes the rightful place of our wholehearted reliance on God. When a relationship becomes central to our identity, security, joy, purpose, or meaning in life, we risk creating an emotional and spiritual dependency that displaces God.

## Signs of Relational Idolatry

A clear sign of relational idolatry is when we seek from people what only God can provide. If someone's approval becomes our measure of worth, or their absence leads to despair, it reveals that our heart has elevated that person to a place of ultimate importance.

As Jesus warned in Matthew 10:37, "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." This verse challenges us to examine whether our deepest love and loyalty belong to Christ

or to those around us.

## Breaking Free from the Idolatry of People

To break free from this subtle form of idolatry, we must first recognize it. Ask yourself:

- Do I feel incomplete or anxious without this person's affirmation?
- Am I compromising my faith or values to maintain their approval?

If the answer is yes, it may be time to realign your heart with God's truth.

Practical steps include intentionally prioritizing your relationship with God—spending time in prayer, worship, and Scripture before seeking human validation. It may also mean setting healthy boundaries or surrendering a relationship to God, trusting that His love is sufficient.

#### Finding True Freedom in Christ

The beauty of confronting relational idolatry

is that it leads to freedom—the freedom to love others fully and selflessly, without placing expectations on them that only God can meet. In doing so, we reflect a heart that is truly set apart for Him, finding our ultimate joy and security not in people, but in the One who created us.







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COME AND EXPERIENCE
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COMMUNITY TODAY.

# ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING (ACM)

Our Annual Congregation Meeting will take place on

Date: Sat, 29 Mar

Venue: Shine Auditorium (L4)

Time: 10.00am - 12.00pm, with breakfast from 9.00am onwards at L1 foyer

\*For Members and Associate Members only.

The Church Committee will be holding sessions for members who wish to seek clarifications on the proposed changes to the Church Constitution.

Date: Sun, 16 Mar

Session 1:

9.45am - 10.15am in Hall 1 (L2)

Session 2:

11.30am - 12.00pm in Hall 2 (L2)

## ATTENTION PARENTS OF 7-13 YEARS-OLDS!

In today's fast-paced world, kids grow up quickly—but as parents, we can make a lasting impact when we lean on God's Word and step out in faith. At this pivotal age, children seek role models and face peer pressure. How can we guide them in their choices? Why do some embrace the Gospel while others turn away?

► Join us for an engaging, hands-on session hosted by the Family Life and Children's Ministries, equipping you with practical biblical insights. Last time, 48 parents attended and found it invaluable—don't miss this opportunity!

Date: Sat, 5 April

Venue: Light 1 & 2 Auditorium (L3)

\_\_\_\_Time: 10.00am - 12.00pm

# DON'T MISS YOUR FULL-TIME MINISTRY CALLING!

Your journey starts here.

Step into a life-changing season of growth and discovery with Gospel Light's Internship Programme—designed for those with a heart for shepherding, pastoral care, and kingdom service. Walk alongside experienced pastors, shepherds, and operations leaders, gaining hands-on church ministry experience, spiritual mentoring, and a deeper understanding of God's calling for your life.

If you're standing at the crossroads of your future, take this opportunity to explore where God may be leading you. Your calling is worth discovering.

Find out more and take the first step, register today.

# LIGONIER CONFERENCE SINGAPORE 2025

Gospel Light is honored to be the venue host of Ligonier's first-ever conference in Asia.

#### Theme: The Holiness of God

Our holy God dwells in unapproachable light. Even the angels cover their faces in His presence. Yet, in His mercy, the Lord has chosen to redeem a people for Himself. Christians are called to reflect His holiness—growing in Christlikeness and proclaiming the good news of salvation to all.

#### **About Ligonier Ministries**

Founded by Dr. R.C. Sproul, Ligonier Ministries is dedicated to equipping believers with the deep, timeless truths of the Christian faith through the teaching of gifted pastors and theologians.

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#### **Speakers**

- Sinclair Ferguson
- **Michael Reeves**
- >> Joel Kim
- Chris Chia
- Date: 19 20 Sep
- Venue: Gospel Light Christian Church
- Register now and view the full schedule.

## SAVE THE DATE - KIDS BIBLE CAMP 2025

Date: 12 and 13 September

Stay tuned for more details!

#### MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Membership in Gospel Light is only for baptized believers of the Lord, and must be of age 16 and above. Attendance at both membership classes 1 & 2 is a prerequisite for membership application. Classes will be conducted on-site. Register here. Registration closes on Sun, 30 Mar.

## **English**

Date: Sun, 27 Apr & 4 May

\_\_\_\_Time: 1.30pm - 2.30pm

Venue: Hall 2 (L2)

#### Chinese

Date: Sun, Sun, 27 Apr & 4 May

\_\_\_\_Time: 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Venue: Hall 2 (L2)

## **SILVER JOY (SENIORS) MINISTRY**

Every chapter of life is a gift from God. And our ministry for seniors celebrates that gift. Silver Joy isn't just a place for seniors to gather, it's a spiritual community of friendship and support. Invite your pre-believing friends, neighbours or family members.

Date: 1st & 3rd Wed of the month

\_\_\_\_Time: 9.45am - 12.30pm

Yenue: Connections Corner (L1)
Upcoming events coming your way.
Register to join us!

Date	Programme
19 Mar	Outing: Peranakan Museum  * registration required

Contact 9753 7964 for registration / enquiries.

## **EXPOSITORY BIBLE STUDY – GOSPEL OF JOHN**

We will take a break and class will resume on Tue, 18 Mar. The Zoom dial-in details for our session are as follows:

\*\*\*Date: Tue, 18 Mar 2025

**A**Time: 8.00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 851 8603 0760

Passcode: 211761

#### YOUNG MUMS PRAY AND SHARE

Are you a mum of a newborn, preschool, school-age, or teenage children? Being a God-honoring wife and mother is not easy with the many ups, downs, and transitions in life. So if you are seeking to connect with other mothers in this journey of faith, join us as we pray, encourage, and support each other to be the mum that God wants us to be!

We meet online and in-person:

- Zoom @ 9.00pm 10.15pm, every2nd Monday of the month
- GLCC @ 10.15am 11: 20am, every last Sunday of the month.

For dates and details please contact Caroline Ong at 9616 8404.

# Prayer Meetings

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16





NOTICES.



Prayer List
WE CAN ONLY MOVE FORWARD
AS A CHURCH BY PRAYER.
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY
PRAYER LIST



Bereavement
WE MOURN WITH MEMBERS
WHO'VE LOST LOVED ONES.
(ROM. 12:15) STAY UPDATED
ON CHURCH BEREAVEMENT



English @Shine Auditorium (L4)
Sunday at 8.30am, 10.15am, 12.00pm
Watch our livestream service at 10.15am only

Chinese @Gospel Auditorium (L2)
Sunday at 8.30am and 10.15am
Watch our livestream service at 10.15am only

Filipino @Gospel Auditorium (L2)
Sunday at 2.00pm
Watch our livestream service at 2.00pm

Youth @Gospel Auditorium (L2)
Saturday at 4.30pm
Subscribe to our announcement channel on
WhatsApp or Telegram.



Varsity @Light 1 and Light 2 (L3)
Sunday at 2.30pm \*no service on 5th week
of the month
Subscribe to Varsity announcement channel

Bahasa @Hall 1 (L2)
Every alternate Sunday 10.30am
For more info, please contact
9117 6000 / 9628 5061

**Telugu** @Gospel Auditorium (L2) Sunday at 5.00pm and 7.30pm <u>Watch</u> our livestream service at 5.30pm



#### **PLAYGROUP**

(12 - 35 months) @ Hall 3 (Attic) Sunday at 8.30am and 10.15am

#### **PRESCHOOL**

(36 months - 6 years) @ Eshkol Valley Premises (Attic) Sunday at 8.30am, 10.15am and 12.00pm

#### **PRIMARY**

(Primary 1 - 6)

@ Light Auditorium (L3)

Sunday at 8.30am, 10.15am, 12.00pm\*

\*12.00pm service held at Eshkol Valley Premises (Attic)

Join our <u>Whatsapp community</u> for regular updates

Contact us if you're interested to explore serving in Children's Ministry!



## FULL GIVING DETAILS HERE



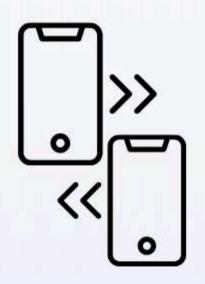
> PAYNOW
Unique Entity Number (UEN)
S88SS0082AGF1



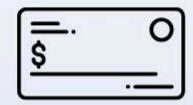
Scan With Your Bank App

All offerings will be directed to the "General" fund. State "Missions" in the UEN/Bill Reference No. section if you wish to designate the offering to our mission work.

# Giving Online



> Internet Banking Transfer DBS Bank 033-021695-5



> Cheque
Make Payable to:
"Gospel Light Christian Church"
Write "Offerings" behind.

For internet banking transfer, indicate "General" or "Mission" to designate where the offering goes to

For cheques, you can further indicate on the reverse: "General Fund" 033-021695-5 or "Missions Fund" 001-042653-2.

Cheques can be deposited at any POSB or DBS bank into the church's accounts.