

Pray for:

- ✿ Bible distribution in 30 cities in North America in January and February; in Canada, the focus is on Hamilton and Guelph, Ontario; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Coquitlam, BC.
- ✿ The Middle East: that the Gospel of the kingdom would advance without hindrances; the Lord to sanctify the hearts of the chosen ones to respond to the Gospel; that the Lord would raise up more Arabic-speaking shepherds to care for new ones; advance of the NT ministry in Arabic on the Internet; raising up of Arabic translators; that the present political turmoil in Tunisia would work out for the salvation of many.
- ✿ English-speaking saints in Montreal: for families to be built together and form vital groups; for a house-to-house church life; blending among all the languages; that the parents would raise their children in a proper way; that the YP and children grow up to be useful vessels.
- ✿ Various saints considering migrating to Montreal to study, work, or serve full-time.
- ✿ Pray for various local needs, including saints in Montreal, contacts, and those in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✿ New Testament Recovery Version with footnotes: Week 64, Gal 3:15 – 5:21
- ✿ HWMR: Crystallization-Study of Isaiah, Vol 1, Week 1
- ✿ Truth Equipping Series – Ministry Literature Sets Reading Schedule: *The Economy of God*, Chapter 15

Announcements

- ✿ There is a conference for college and young working saints in Belleville, March 18-20. Deadline for registration is Feb 20. Contact Monica for more information.

Lord's Day Lunch Serving & Clean-up Schedule

Jan 23	✿ Serving: Chinese North
	✿ Cleaning: Chinese (East, Central)
	✿ Whole meeting hall cleaning
30	✿ Serving: Chinese South (B)
	✿ Cleaning: English
Feb 6	✿ Serving: English (A)
	✿ Cleaning: French/Spanish
13	✿ Serving: Chinese South (A)

✿ Cleaning: Chinese (North, South, West)

Upcoming Events

- ✿ Jan. 29 – Feb. 14, Halifax, NS: **Gospel Sowing Trip**
- ✿ Feb. 18-20, 2011, Anaheim, CA: **Chinese-speaking New Year's International Conference**
- ✿ **Mar. 18-20, Belleville, ON:** Belleville Conference for College and Young working saints
- ✿ April 1-3, 2011, Anaheim, CA: **International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones.**
- ✿ May 12-14, 2011, Karei Deshe on the Sea of Galilee, Israel: **Spring Conference in Israel**

This Week's Activities

JAN 23 LORD'S DAY	✿ 10am to 12:30 pm, Meeting hall: Lord's table and prophesying meetings
	✿ 12:30pm to 1:30pm, Meeting hall: Love feast
24 Monday	
25 Tuesday	✿ 7:30pm: District prayer meetings at various homes
26 Wednesday	✿ 7pm – 8:30pm, Andrea's place: College meeting
27 Thursday	✿
28 Friday	✿ 10am, Meeting hall: Chinese speaking pursuing meeting
	✿ Various home meetings (Chinese/ English / French)
29 Saturday	✿ 7pm – 9:30pm, Meeting hall: Young People Meeting

Meeting

Scripture Reading: Heb. 10:25; Matt. 18:20; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 14:23, 26

V. IN CHRIST

Once you become a Christian, you must leave your past temperament behind. There is no such thing in the church. Often the church suffers because many people try to bring their natural flavor and peculiar traits into the church. When those who do not like to talk gather together, they become a quiet group. When those who chatter gather together, they become a chattering group. When those who are cold gather together,

they become a group of cold people. When those who are warm gather together, they become a group of warm people. As a result, many distinctions are built up among God's children.

However, there is no place for natural dispositions in the church. In Christ and in the new man, there is no place for natural disposition. Do not think that others are wrong because their disposition is different from yours. You must realize that your own disposition is also unacceptable to others. Whether you are quick or quiet, cold or warm, intellectual or emotional, once you become a brother or a sister, you must put off these things. If you bring these natural elements into the church, they will become the basis of confusion and division. When you bring your disposition and temperament into the church, you will make yourself the standard and the criteria. Those who are up to your standard will be classified as good Christians, and those who are not up to your standard will be classified as poor Christians. Those who get along with your character will be deemed right and those who do not get along with your character will be deemed wrong. When this happens, the church will suffer through your disposition and temperament. Such distinctions must never exist in the church.

The second distinction is between free men and slaves. This distinction has also been eliminated in Christ. In Christ, the distinction between free men and slaves does not exist.

Paul wrote the Epistles of 1 Corinthians, Galatians, and Colossians during the Roman era when slavery was practiced. At that time slaves were like animals or tools; they were their masters' possessions. Children born to slaves were automatically slaves; they had no freedom their whole life. The distinction between the free man and the slave was very great. However, God does not allow this distinction to exist in the church. The Epistles of 1 Corinthians, Galatians, and Colossians all say that there cannot be free man or slave. This distinction has been eliminated in Christ.

The third distinction is between male and female. In Christ and in the new man, the male and the female have the same status; there is no distinction between them. The male does not occupy a special position; neither does the female. Because Christ is all and in all, there is no distinction between male and female. In spiritual matters there is no difference between male and female. A brother is saved by the life of Christ, that is, by the life of God's Son. A sister also is saved by the life of Christ, the life of God's Son. The brother has become God's son, and the sister has become God's son as

well. In Christ we are all God's sons, and there is no distinction between male and female.

The fourth distinction is between barbarians and Scythians. This is a distinction of culture. There are differences in cultural standards, yet Paul told us that the cultural distinctions of barbarians and Scythians alike have been abolished in Christ.

Of course, we should learn to be a Jew among Jews, and to be as under law to those under law (1 Cor. 9:20-22). Among people of other cultures, we should behave according to their culture. We should learn to be one with all people in all places. When we contact those of a different culture, we should learn to be one with them in Christ.

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