

## **January Teaching Theme: The Church**

**讲员** Speaker: George Wong

**题目** Topic: “The Spiritual War between Spiritual Church and Worldly Modern Paganism”

**经文** Scripture: ...

**Monthly Theme:** This month our teaching theme will focus on “The Church.” The Church, as we know, is not a building or place or even worship gatherings, but a multi-ethnic community made up of God’s people (Kingdom Citizens). If we don’t understand or grasp the robust vision the Scriptures have for the Church, we will be doomed to not live into our calling as a community. On the First Sunday, we looked at understanding the Church as a Kingdom Embassy in the world whose chief ethic is reconciliation. Building on top of this, last week, Pastor Tian examined the Church as a family crossing national, ethnic, and cultural boundaries.

一月的证道表 - 主题：教会

January Teaching Schedule - Theme: The Church

3rd – 使馆教会 The Church as an Embassy (圣经神学 Biblical Theology, 哥林多后书 2 Corinthians 5)

10th – 上帝的跨国大家庭 The TransNational Family of God (使徒行传 Acts 2:1-40, 以赛亚书 Isaiah 25:6-8)

17th – 圣灵的团契 Community of the Spirit (彼得前书 1 Peter 2:4-5)

24th – 神拣选在世的器皿 God’s Chosen Instrument in the World (提摩太前书 1 Timothy 3:14-16, 彼得前书 1 Peter 2:6-10)

31st – 基督的肢体 The Body of Christ (以爱为根基的合一多元肢体 Unity & Celebrated Diversity, Grounded in Love) (哥林多前书 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:13)

## **Resources:**

[Sermon Video](#)

## **Discussion Questions (George Wong)**

1. 古罗马普林尼总督与现代美国莱科克教授的问题有什么相同之处？两个时代基督徒所面对的处境是什么？What is the similarity of the questions that brought forth by Governor Pliny in ancient Rome and Douglas Laycock in modern America? What is the context of Christians in these two different eras?
2. 基督教与异教在自然界、福分、与性观有什么显著的不同点？What are the significant differences between Christianity and paganism in the topics of Nature, Goodness, and Sexuality?
3. 为什么堕胎是违反圣经与科学的行为，等同于杀害无辜与脆弱的生命？Why abortion is against the teaching of the Bible as well as science, it’s killing the innocent and vulnerable?
4. 自2014年同性婚姻合法以来同性夫妇暴增，请问同性婚姻如何在社会与学校中冲击基督徒？Since the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2014, the number of same-sex couple has increased rapidly, how

will the same-sex marriage impact the Christians in the society and school?

5. 什么是“敬虔之功”？我们在这方面要做些什么？请分享。What is the work of piety? What should we do in this area? Please share your views.

6. 什么是“怜悯之功”？我们在这方面需要做些什么？请分享。What is the work of mercy? What should we do in this area? Please share your views.

7. 什么是“布道之功”？我们在这方面需要做些什么？请分享。What is the work of evangelism? What should we do in this area? Please share your views.

### **Important Notes (Pastor William R. Horne):**

Thoughts on Q3: Abortion is certainly a lamentable evil and injustice in our world. We should be a people who are seriously pro-life from womb to the tomb. As Christians, the question we should ask is how can we create as many opportunities possible to reduce abortions? Recently studies of abortion rate data have shown the best ways to reduce abortion is to have been social and health services on the local level. Counties and states with better health care availability, pregnancy resource centers, and better systems for adoption have shown the lowest level of abortions. So as LCCC, what things can we be investing in to be more effective at reducing abortion? What ways can we change the landscape of abortion here in central Kentucky?

Thoughts on Q4: Indeed, we should stand for and live out the historical-traditional Christian view of marriage - a lifelong covenant between a man and woman. The data shows that homosexual marriage has increased since the 2014 ruling (which makes sense) but homosexual couples in general hasn't significantly increased since that time. Essentially those already living a homosexual life style and cohabitating with a partner got married post 2014 ruling. It is a sad state of affairs, to see some lawsuits against Christian bodies from a few in the LGBTQ community - but thank God that His Church is not built on money, power, or security but Jesus Christ the chief cornerstone! As I reflect on this question, I am asking in what ways can we “love our neighbors as ourselves” and walk with people through the struggle of same-sex attraction to the fullness of life and sexual health found in Jesus? That might start with doing what Jesus did and “eat with tax collectors and sinners.”

Thoughts on Q5: To pursue piety we must be engage in spiritual disciplines and “spiritual sacrifices.”

Some Spiritual Disciplines: Prayer & Meditation; Bible Reading & Study; Fasting; Sabbath; Fellowship (Community); Self-Examination; Simplicity & Stewardship; Confession; Celebration; Silence; etc.

Some “Spiritual Sacrifices” according to 1 Peter 4:7-11: Being Alert & Sober Minded (Mental Self-Control & Sensibility); Pray (Double Important!); Love Each Other Deeply; Offer Hospitality (Welcome Others); Use Gifts (Abilities & Material) to Serve Others; Speak Truth Boldly (Boldly doesn't mean Harshly); Serve with Humility; Do All things with Excellence as an act of Worship

Thoughts on Q6: Mercy is defined by compassion and forgiveness towards someone. We are not keen on showing mercy towards someone who acts in ways we disagree, thus to fight

against this reaction we must first practice James advice - that we would be “quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger.” Mercy requires a level of empathy that values the other person as made in the image of God.

Thoughts on Q7: There are multiple valuable methods of evangelism that would do us good to study and appropriately apply. However, our best witness to the world is living like Jesus to the best of our ability in our spaces of influence. Through our living like Jesus and walking through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we might draw others unto Jesus and create opportunities for verbal proclamation of the Gospel.

### **Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):**

属灵教会和属世异教之争战

黄兴丰牧师 1/17/21

"主乃活石，固然是被人所弃的，却是被 神所拣选、所宝贵的。你们来到主面前，也就像活石，被建造成灵宫，作圣洁的祭司，借着耶稣基督奉献 神所悦纳的灵祭。"

彼得前书 2:4-5 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/1pe.2.4-5.cunpss-神>

#### 一，教会是灵宫

##### 1, 灵官的定义

被神拣选是宝贵，耶稣是被神所拣选的。

我们来到主前，被建造成灵宫

灵宫有圣灵同在，应该有献祭，灵祭虔诚之功（成圣生活）怜悯之工（关爱生活），布道之工福音生活）。灵官中献祭和传福音的宫。

##### 2, 为什么世界要迫害基督徒？

a, 仇敌攻击就是因为基督的名。

b, 罗马总督，普林尼，说基督徒为什么受迫害？遵守法律，真否基督的名就要被攻击吗？就是因为基督。

c, laycook也说为什么人一定要控告基督徒，有人有意找基督徒服务专业，但不好就控告他们。

d, Eliot预告：将来西方社会是异教和基督教的争战。异教没有消失，回到西方新的形式。用法律争战和基督教。

##### 3, 异教和基督教的不同点

-异教：多神，拜金主义注重礼仪，外表，今生，享受世界物质，圣化自然是神，神给长寿，健康，财富，性多方面都可满足欲望，异教合法同性，98万同性，70百分增长率，异教产生，个人主义，相对主义，世俗主义，享乐主义，泛神论。自然界有可拜之神。

-基督教：一神，注重真理，内心，永恒世界，目标是天上这世界是短暂的，自然界是神造，我们是过路的，世界暂时，性是一男一女在婚姻中，

现在异教占上峰，把基督徒边缘化，堕胎。支持胎儿是生命的圣经章节。赛49：1，诗127

#### 二，我们能做什么？

##### 1, 敬虔之功：

a, 我们是圣洁的子民，我们能献什么灵祭？

过圣洁的生活，守住信仰，

- b, 守住下一代, 培育虔诚的后代。
- c, 守住基督教的传统
- d, 为美国归向上帝来祷告,

神向华盛顿说, 美国成为最强大, 此后要下降。  
虽然不成为老大, 但可以成为神的国。

## 2, 怜悯之功

恨罪爱罪人。爱邻舍, 怜悯LGBTQ吸毒者, 享乐主义者, 无业游民, 社会主义者。社会需要帮助这些人脱离恶者。

## 3, 布道之功

- a, 要传福音, 活出我们所传的福音。无论得时不得时要传福音
- b, 还福音的债, 言语告诉什么是好消息, 带领来教堂。

教会一起参与属灵的争战, 神会最终的胜利, 能不能象保罗说, 美好的战我已经打了。  
我们不是在上帝一边, 就是在魔鬼一边。我们一起打这一仗。献上敬虔之功, 怜悯之功和布道之功。将来在天天上得从神来的奖赏。

The spiritual war between spiritual church and worldly modern paganism  
Pastor George Wong  
Topic of the month is church, today we will focus on the spiritual church

"As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:4-5 NIV

Christ is the living stone, Jesus was rejected when He was on Earth, but chosen by God, a precious living stone.

Church is a spiritual house, built up by our living stones.

We are also holy priesthood to offer up to God

Three aspects of sacrifice

Work of piety (sanctified life)

Work of mercy (caring life)

Work of evangelism (gospel life)

Church is always under attacks from Satan

"Pagans & Christians in the city" book by Steven Smith

Christianity is established on top of ancient Roman rule, Christians were under persecution, killed just because of the believe, why just being a Christian, for the name of Christ?

Until 300 years later

Modern American society, same question?

Same sex couples deliberately seek christian service, if rejected, bring the Christian to the court

The future of the western society, would be determined by a contest between Christianity and rival modern paganism

Differences between paganism vs Christianity

Polytheistic vs monotheistic

Many different gods dominate the world vs one true God

Focusing on ritual, vs. on truth doctrine belief

On this world vs the next world

The world as their home, enjoy all of the fallen world, short vs heavenly everlasting home

Different views of nature:

Sacralize nature vs created being, worship only the creator

Views of good;

Good health, long life, happiness from the worldly gods vs pilgrims, ultimate good is god himself

Sexuality:

Accept all sexual behaviors, outside /inside marriage, vs sex as a designation of God, one man one woman within marriage

Counterrevolution of paganism:

They try to marginalize Christianity, kick Christianity out of city,

Bible Belt in us, not metropolitan cities any more

Promote abortion

Isaiah 49:1

God mentions name of the unborn baby. They are human being

Yahweh has called me from the womb

Jeremiah 1:5 he was chosen by god when in his mom's womb

Psalms 127:3 children are heritage of Yahweh

From the perspective of science, unborn fetus is already human being

Same sex marriage and transgender:

2014 legalized same sex marriage

2019 census 980,000 same sex couple

Use of gender neutral language

Many evils

Like relativism—there is no absolute truths in the world

Atheism—no creator, no supreme god, no life after death

What should we do?

1. Sanctified life, keep our faith, live in holiness, keep our next generation, train them to become next generation of piety, church's responsibilities

A nation under God

Pray for America nation, return to God

2. Caring life, love neighbors as ourselves, including LGBTQ, all different sinners

Professional help

3. Preach and live out God's words

The gospel

2 Peter 4:2 preach the word with urgency, in season and out of season

This is the responsibility of every living house and living stone.

Do you have a part in the success?

Win the Spiritual war

Offer ourselves as living sacrifice

Imperishable life in heaven