

## TODAY'S FACILITATORS

**PRAYER:** Yomi

**OFFERING:** Austin

**WORD:** Pastor

## WELCOME

We warmly welcome you, if you are worshipping with us for the first time. We believe you've become a member of our church family by God's grace.

Please ensure you speak to the Pastor or one of today's facilitators before you leave.

May God bless you richly (Amen).

## VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

*Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)*

## GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

To build a church that is **growing, healthy and full of love**, do you have comments, ideas or suggestions? If so, please talk to the Pastor or a minister.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you could join most of our services online when **you are unable to attend?** Talk to the technical team or the Pastor to find out how.

...Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps.

1 Pet. 2:21

[www.agodman.com](http://www.agodman.com)

Source(s): <https://www.agodman.com/blog/christ-gave-us-his-life-of-submission-learn-him-god-operates-in-us/>



Sunday 19 July 2020

# WELCOME

*Redeemed Christian Church of God*

# Bethel

## WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

### SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service  
From 10am

### FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study  
From 7pm

**RCCG Bethel Parish**

Unit 13, Skylines Village

Limeharbour, London E14 9TS

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WEB: [www.rccgbethel.church](http://www.rccgbethel.church)

# Our 'must-visit' website



Home Our Focus About us Contact Us Sermons Privacy Policy



Our website is a treasure trove of information, and not only about our focus and mission. You could subscribe to our podcast or listen to past sermons too

(<http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/>). This is particularly useful for when you are unable to attend services or for refreshing your recollection as an essential part of your private Bible study.

There's more! Details of events and outreach will almost certainly be available from relevant pages on our website and updated regularly, along with downloadable copies of our Sunday bulletins (<http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>).

So, why don't you set our homepage as one of your **startup page(s)** in your browser now? The following instructions for most of the common browsers may help.

## Google Chrome

1. Open the browser and the **Settings** menu (or the **three vertical dots** to the right of the menu bar).
2. Scroll down and click on **Advanced Settings**.
3. Select **Open a specific page or set of pages** under **On Startup**.
4. Select **Set pages** and enter or add <http://rccgbethel.church/>.

## Mozilla Firefox

1. Open Firefox. Press **Alt-T** on the keyboard and select **Options** from the drop-down menu or go to **Tools >> Options** from the main menu.
2. In the **Home** section, select **Homepage and new windows** and **Custom URLs...** from the field's drop down.
3. Enter or paste the URL: <http://rccgbethel.church/> or click **Use Current Page** if you are already on our website.

## Microsoft Edge

1. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar.
2. Select **Settings** and select **A Specific Page or Pages** from the **Open Microsoft Edge With** section drop down options.
3. Enter <http://rccgbethel.church/>. (Click the Plus sign to add more pages if required).
4. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar again to close **Settings** menu.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### Submission, *not* subjugation

**Text: Ephesians 5:15-33**

Several things have been challenging of recent. This morning for example, the question of how we can be generous with something that doesn't belong to us – given to us by God, including our time – is something that will remain under consideration. The rest of **Ephesians 5** is also a source of controversy in the church, often challenged especially by feminist movements.

The first thing to note is that **submission** is not **subjugation**. Jesus gave us an illustration in **John 10:17-18**. He gave his life of his own accord and has the power to take it back. True submission is the act of accepting the authority of someone over you willingly and yielding yourself to that person. Unlike subjugation, you can yield and take back control.

Wives are asked to submit to their husband as unto Christ and **1 Peter 3:7** expands on how husbands should see this. Women may be the weaker sex, but they should be respected. This is because they're also "**heirs ... of the gracious gift of life**". Peter went further to link this with obtaining answers to prayers.

Sometimes we cite the epilogue of womanhood in **Proverbs 31:10-31**, forgetting that the passage lauded the woman, especially in the last verses (**Prov 31:28-31**). Paul was teaching submission doctrine in a context where there were clear hierarchies and disparities in relationships and power e.g. children to parents, slaves to master and so on. He challenged these and asked all parties to maintain a balance as befitting Christian relationships (**Eph 6:1-9**).

We can also learn from a couple referenced again and again by Paul. **Acts 18:1-2, 18:18-19; 24-26** give us a snapshot of Priscilla and Aquila's relationship. They worked in partnership to teach Paul the way of Christ. Their relationship endured and evolved from tent-making to establishing / nurturing churches (**Rom 16:3-5; 1 Cor 16:9**). We don't see any imbalance of power. In fact, in most anecdotes about them, Priscilla's name is mentioned first.

God created the woman because he said man should not be alone (**Gen 2:18**). That implies man was incomplete in the eyes of God. The relationship should be a true partnership and not of subjugation; similar to the relationship between Christ and the church. A lot of times we use cultural nuances or what we've been taught by parents / mentors, denominations etc., adopting bible verses to support our positions (**Matt 15:1-9**).

Sin brought about the imbalance and Eve was cursed: "**Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you**" (**Gen 3:1-16**). However, that's not God's plan for us. The question we should be asking is who we've become rather than using scripture to justify our views, behaviours, positions etc (**2 Cor 3:12-18**). Nurture and the way we've been brought up may distort our views, but Christ's position is the one we must adopt.

For example, the only reason we know what we look like is by looking into a mirror. We may perfect our looks in the morning, but there will be imperfections over time that we may not be aware of unless they're pointed out or we look in the mirror again. We need to constantly look at ourselves in the image of God's word and make adjustments to our thoughts and actions accordingly.

### Bottom line:

There's a saying that the light of the gospel will blind you to the world and when you regain your sight, you will not see the world the same way again. We must allow our eyes to be opened by the word of God and be transformed by the truth of his word so that we may gain Christ (**Phil 3:8**). Let's not conform to what we've known and learnt, but to the word of God.

**RCCG Bethel Parish**  
*Pillar of truth ... defining the future today*