

And always make the time to talk things over with Jesus, asking his opinion, cause that's the one I want to follow and do. Keep asking the Father for a heart that beats in rhythm with Jesus. Keep asking the Father for a heart of love, just like Jesus. Keep asking, cause he's promised to deliver! Amazing.

Let's pray.  
Jesus thank you for choosing to love us, giving your life as the sacrifice we needed to be forgiven and restored into a loving relationship with the Father. We thank and praise you for loving us way beyond what we could ever deserve. You're truly amazing. Father flood our hearts with Jesus'

love so that our heart's desire is to do your will, that your kingdom comes, to your glory, honour and praise. Father flood our heart's that the love of Christ compels us to action. Amen.

---

## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553  
Edmund 0429041957



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

17 May 2009

## THE HEART HE OFFERS.

3:16



“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”  
John 3:16

John 3:16 focuses on God's heart. Why he does what he does. We see what motivates God. 'For God so loved'. His motive comes from the heart. A heart full of passion for you. What motivates you?

Paul in 2 Corinthians says; “For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer life

for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Cor. 5:14,15) 'Christ's love compels us.' What a beautiful motive for action.

In Christ God offers us his heart, that we might live life from his heart. That he might now give us our heart's desire, because our heart's desire is Christ. Christ's love shaping my actions. Directing my decisions. Finding expression in my fashion. Lived out in my occupation. The love of Christ compels me, motivates me, is my heart's desire.

In the Gospel reading for today Jesus makes

this amazing promise; “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” (John 15:16) 'Whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.' When Jesus' passion is my passion, the Father wants to give me my heart's desire. What a truly amazing promise.

In Christ we now have a new heart. Paul reminds us of that; “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation, (*they ARE a new creation*) the old has gone, the new has come.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

The old heart has gone. The old reasons for acting are gone. We are a new creation with Christ's heart beating in us. The love of Christ compels me.

The whole first letter of John which we've been reading over the last weeks focuses on this truth. As Jesus' disciples it's his love for us that now shapes our lives.

We're not shaped by external pressures, but it is the love God has for us, the love that saw him sacrifice his one and only son, that we might be forgiven and have eternal life with him. This is the love we are now empowered to live from.

All through the first letter of John we're reminded of the power we have to live

from a new heart. A heart that beats in tune with Jesus' heart. "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God... This is how God

showed his love among us; He sent his one and only Son into the world that we

---

**Christ's Love  
Compels Us**

---

might live through him... Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another... And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love one another." (1 John 4:7, 9,11, 21)

Jesus isn't here asking us to do the impossible, but we are being reminded that we have been love and so we love

with God's power and authority.

You can tell me all you like that I should do something, but until it is part of me and flows from within, at best the action is forced. Jesus command empowers me to live from a heart that is now Jesus'. Jesus has claimed it as his own, it belongs to him, it beats to the rhythm of his kingdom.

That's the force of the imagery of Jesus being the vine, and that we are the branches. It is the life giving sap of Jesus that flows through us producing fruit, fruit that will last. The fruit flows from the vine, and is an expression of the vine.

You don't pick lemons from a

grapevine. Just by taping grapes to a lemon tree you don't have a grape vine. Use as many bunches of grapes as you like. Stick them all over the lemon tree; it'll still be a lemon tree. And the fruit certainly won't last.

The love God has for us through Jesus produces an organic, natural relationship where his love flows through us finding expression in all the aspects of our lives. So Jesus says; "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:7,8) Did you notice that, again, 'Ask whatever you wish'. When the heart

of Jesus beats in my. Is my heart's desire, I can ask anything and the Father is only too pleased to act. He wants his love to grow in our lives to overflowing.

I also know there is a battle in life. I am tempted to let other

---

**Jesus says;  
'Remain in Me.'**

---

influences, other people, other desires, my basic needs, I'm tempted to let them motive what I do. Sometimes frustration, anger, hurt, envy, greed seek to motivate me. Other times I wrestle with feelings of worthlessness or pride, feeling put down or accepting others praise as my worth. Life is a wrestle when it

comes to what motivates.

Thank God Jesus has given us the exercises to keep our heart healthy. Eat well, feast on his word, on his truth, on the encouragement of the Holy Spirit through other Christians.

Exercise binding up the devil's lies, and throwing them out in the garbage. Jesus' wonderful

exercise of confession and absolution.

Acknowledging those wrong motives and be dependent on Jesus' love. Exercise loving people, encouraging them, feeding them, walking with them, sharing what God has blessed you with to build them up according to their needs that it might benefit them (Ephesians 4:29).