

I think our Heavenly Father is just as passionate about how we live using our strength to help people and not intimidate them as much as he wants us to us our sexual relations in a way that shows his love and doesn't treat people simply as a commodity to meet our desires. The love our Heavenly Father has for us isn't for some areas and not others, but he wants us to reap the best he has to offer in all areas of our life shared together with him.

If my faith in Jesus isn't shaping everything I do, and affecting every area of my life, then there's something unhealthy in my

relationship with Jesus. Thankfully Jesus continually invites us to repent, so that we can keep open and honest lines of communication and be living a healthy, loving, vibrant relationship with him, enjoying living with his Dad as our Dad.

Let us pray. Jesus, thank you for coming and giving your life that we might have this special relationship with God. That he is our Heavenly Father and we can enjoy sharing life with him now. Daily keep us open to the Holy Spirit that we live each moment of the day in close relationship to you, seeking to know what you think about a

situation and then acting on what you say. Thankyou that your faith isn't empty words, but you daily live out your love and commitment to us. Grow us to greater maturity that we my live as you do, that we might 'Love our neighbours as we are loved by you'. Let that be especially true of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen

6 September 2009

FAITH IN ACTION

James 2:7-17



James reminds us today that our faith isn't a list of things we hold to be true, but a relationship we live. So James says; "faith by itself if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:17) You can't say that you're married to another person if you don't share your life with them, if you don't let that relationship shape what you do.

You'd all think I was crazy if I said; "I'm married but I don't talk to my wife. I just do whatever I like." If you're not talking, sharing your life with the person you're married to, we'd all begin to think that there was something unhealthy about that relationship. Actually I got married so that my life would be changed, that I could share my life with Yolette and

not to simply co-exist as strangers.

Relationships are for living.

That's why James says faith without action is dead. It's just plain ludicrous for Jesus to have given his life for us that we might be forgiven and share life with him if we now totally ignore what he says, make no effort to spend time together, existing as strangers.

That's quite obviously not what Jesus gave his life for. He wants to share his life with us, enjoying our company, and we enjoying his company, building a close, intimate, loving relationship. A relationship which affects every aspect of our lives, that shapes every decision we make, which moulds our lives that we just couldn't conceive of it

without Jesus being there. I reckon that's what it means to be saved.

We're not saved by knowing a few facts and figures. We're saved; being forgiven so that we can now live this wonderful relationship with God that Jesus died on the cross to offer us. I get excited about this wonderful relationship I now get to live with God through Jesus.

God is now my 'Heavenly Father'. Not some stranger but someone who is intimately linked to me. The Father who was prepared to sacrifice himself that we might know his love for us. Our Father wants to enjoy life with us, and he certainly wants us to enjoy life with him; doing more than grunt,

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

grudgingly giving him some of our valuable time. Our Heavenly Father is all ears, and loves sharing his life with his children, seeing them grow and become all he has dreamed possible.

Salvation isn't knowing that God created me and the world. Salvation is being known personally by that God as my loving Dad.

Salvation isn't knowing about Jesus, but knowing without a shadow of doubt that he loves me more than his own life. Jesus' crucifixion isn't some fact I need to know, it is the basis of our relationship. Does God love you? In Jesus the answer is yes, he's paid the ultimate price; he died for you.

If this loving relationship I now have with Jesus doesn't shape my life, my decisions, all I do, then something is wrong.

Then Jesus has wasted his time, because Jesus didn't come to give me a lecture but to share his life with me, and for that to happen he had to die. Die that I might move from being under God's curse to being under God's grace.

James in our reading for today gave a few

Faith without action is dead!

ways in which our relationship with Jesus shapes the way we live and the decisions we make.

First James says; "My brothers and sisters, glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism." (James 2:1) Jesus now shapes the way I look at the world and the people in it, especially those who believe in Jesus.

Did you notice how James views us? We are his brothers and sisters. That's not nice imagery, that's what we are in Jesus. If Jesus is my brother and he's your brother then what does that make us – family. That's not a nice image it's what Jesus has created through his death and resurrection. To live any other way is a denial of Jesus and a rejection of his death and resurrection.

No wonder James was cranky at people showing favouritism based on how much money another person has. Showing favouritism based on what's in it for me. That's not how families work, we are brothers and sisters, we are here to care for each other, to serve each other because that's who we are. Never because of what's in it for me. That's a sign of sickness within a family. Something I

need to quickly repent of, and see my brothers and sisters as Jesus does. Not commodities to meet my needs but as people I have the wonderful opportunity to share life with based on God's love; his love for them and his love for me. So Jesus reminds me; 'He didn't come to be served but to serve'.

So James reminds me of our family motto; the royal law. As Jesus' brothers and sisters we are part of the royal family, so this is our family motto; "Love your neighbour as yourself."

I always thought this was an easy thing to do. But then I ran across a guy who suggested to love your neighbour as yourself means you would spend as much money on them as you do on yourself. That's when I realised I've got a lot of maturing to do.

Isn't that precisely what a good parent does? They spend as much money on their kids, probably more, as they do on themselves. Isn't that what our Heavenly Father does, he loves us as much as he loves himself, investing in us his total self. We don't get the leftovers, but have his full attention.

'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Today when you get home why not make a sign to remind you of our family's motto; the motto we live by – 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. Then check how you're spending your money, not to feel guilty but to help you to be living life to the full.

James also reminds us of the 'Ten Commandments' as guides which helps us in the way we love one

another. James reminds me that the 'Ten Commandments' aren't given so that I can feel good about myself, but so that I can live out the potential that my Heavenly Father has created in me through Jesus.

So when I break one of the commandments, James says I've broken them all. How does that work? Simple, I'm not breaking a commandment; I'm turning a deaf ear and not listening to Dad.

James know that we are saved to have a living, loving, vibrant relationship with God as our Heavenly Father, and the way to a healthy relationship isn't by ignoring him. 'Sure Dad I'll do what you say when I like it, but when I don't like what you say, I'll just do my own thing and ignore you'.