

10 February 2008

Jesus Calls Us to Live Life Together - 2 Part of Jesus' Family



“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to FELLOWSHIP, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

After God created Adam and set him up in the Garden of Eden, what did God say? “It’s not good!” “It’s not good for the man to be alone.” It’s not good to be alone. We were never created to be islands, isolated from other people. What was God’s solution? “I will make a helper suitable for him.” (Genesis 2:18)

God’s answer is community. Another person to share life with.

When Adam and Eve sin, what gets broken? Just prior to the fall we read; “The man and his wife were both naked and they felt no shame.” (Genesis 2:25) This isn’t some fashion statement, but a reflection of their relationship. Open, honest, nothing to fear.

But once they sin it’s a different story; “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.” (Genesis 3:7) Their wonderful open relationship is wrecked. Community is shattered.

Why was Jesus born? Why did he die on the cross? Why was he raised on the third day? Because it’s not good for us to be alone. It’s not good for us to be separated from God and his love for us. It’s not good for us to be alone, separated from each other, hiding from each other behind our fig leaves, believing they give us the right image.

In case you haven’t noticed the bible is all about relationships. The bible is all about sharing life together. God comes in Jesus so that we might share his life, together with him. The bible is all

about sharing God’s life with him and with each other.

Living in splendid isolation from each other certainly isn’t Jesus’ dream. Keeping people at arm’s length so we don’t get hurt, isn’t Jesus’ dream. Living on a superficial level where there isn’t any risk of hurt feelings, or getting ripped off, isn’t Jesus’ dream.

The community which Jesus creates to live life together, we call – church.

Church is not an event we do. Church is not a club we are members of. Church is the life we share together with Jesus. Church is that community of people who are living together united in their relationship with Jesus. Church is that community of people who share life together under Jesus’ rule, finding their identity in Jesus.

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

On the night Jesus was betrayed what do we find him doing? We find him doing what he wants to find us doing. "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." Jesus has just modelled the form of relationship he wants us to be daily living.

Then we have that well known text; "A new command I give you: Love one another." That's relational. That's community. "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34,35)

This is not safe detached living, but getting involved, getting our hands dirty, as we get involved in the nitty gritty of living. That's what washing each other's feet is all about. It's not safe, it's dirty, it's smelly, and at times we'd rather not do it. But when it comes to sharing life together,

that's how it's done; down-to-earth. You don't love at arm's length, but by following Jesus' example and getting involved in people's lives, even to the point of being crucified for knowing them.

How can we be this community that Jesus has given his life for?

Commit to share life together

The first step is in recognizing that this is Jesus' goal and commit to live it.

Notice the first temptation is to doubt what we know God has said. "If you are the Son of God..." (Matthew 4:3) God has just declared that to be true at Jesus' baptism, and now he's being tempted to doubt it. If God's goal in Jesus is to create a new community, who don't live at arm's length but love each other as they are loved by Jesus, then we shouldn't doubt it, but

seek ways in which to live it.

The second temptation of Jesus is that he needs to prove himself; jump off and God will catch you. In Jesus I know I don't have to prove myself, all I have to do is live out what I have. How can we live out that Jesus' dream is that we live life together?

Step two, act on this belief and join a fellowship group, or set about starting one. Get two or three other people and commit to share Jesus' life together. Commit to be there for each other. Commit to wash each other's feet.

Don't commit to an event, commit to a small community of people. Commit to share life together, built on Jesus, the Jesus who has revealed his heart and soul in the bible. Listen to Jesus together, daily pray for each other, regularly eat with each other, be there for each other. Join a fellowship group that is a living breathing expression of Jesus sharing his life with us.

The third temptation is to neglect what we know God wants in favour of something else. We place something else as more important. I think it is very clear that Jesus wants his community of faith living life together. That is a priority, and the way you do that is by making the time to get together, and realizing there is no easy way.

The devil tempts Jesus with the easy way. The devil seeks to get Jesus to worship something other than God's clearly revealed will. The devil loves it when I take the easy way and don't sacrifice myself, but seek to get what I want out of life. Living life together is all about practicing sacrifice, giving up time to be there for each other. Forgiving, caring, sharing, building trust, knowing we're there for each other.

Step three, today invite the Holy Spirit to lead you into a fellowship group, a group that shares Jesus' life together, in down-to-earth ways.

Invite the Holy Spirit to touch you and overcome those fears and anxieties that keep people at arm's length. Then aim to be a host, writing down the names the Holy Spirit gives you and invite them to be your guests, beginning a new group who are committed to each other as Jesus is.

Or if you don't feel that

Jesus' dream; a community in the very shape of Jesus

the Holy Spirit is call you to host a group, practice saying; 'Yes'. So when you're invited you can say, 'Yes'. And joyfully seek to do what Jesus' has dreamed possible. A community that loves each other, just like he does. Living life together.

Let us pray. Jesus, thank you for coming to share your life with me, with us. Thank you for not keeping me at arm's length, but that you risked your life, that you risked being crucified that I might share your life with you.

Jesus I invite you to send the Holy Spirit to show where in my life I need healing in my relationships. Please heal me so that I can be living life with you, growing your community, loving as I am loved by you, in down-to-earth practical ways, not counting the cost.

Jesus lead me to those you want me to be in a fellowship group with. Give me the courage, love and wisdom to be part of a group that I might be living in community as you have given your life for me to enjoy. Jesus thank you that I don't have to face life alone, but I can live with you and be part of your loving community.