

can give you the tools for this event and to start praying for you.

Why did Jesus die on the cross? Why did Jesus taste the agony of hell? Why does Jesus sit at the Father's right hand, now?

So that we might attend a club meeting once a week, living independently of each other, or so that we might live life together, together with each other, living life together with God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Jesus I praise and thank you for giving your life for me, so that I might celebrate living life with you and those you love. I know there are things that stop me living that life to the full. I know there are excuses, barriers, things that stop me, please forgive me, and heal me so that I might passionately seek to live life together with you and those you love. Lead me into a L.I.F.E. community where in down-to-earth way I can invest your love, live your forgiveness and celebrate life with others in concrete ways. Save me from empty theory.

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## 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 February 2008

## Jesus Calls Us to Live Life Together - 3

### Tool's for Living Together



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

Lent is a time that we remember the extremes God went to in Jesus to save us. That famous passage from John we read today reminds us of God’s great passion; “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in his shall have eternal life in him.” (John 3:16)

The Father gives his one and only Son, that we might have eternal life. What a high price is paid that you might live. Do you think it would be a shame to waste the life of the Father’s one and only Son? It wouldn’t be a shame, it would be a travesty, it would be the ultimate insult, the ultimate sin, to waste Jesus’ life.

Jesus has paid the price that we might live life together. Fellowship isn’t a nice thing we do, it’s what Jesus gave his life for. It’s Jesus’ passion. Jesus’ passion is to live life together, together with you and with all the people he loves. That’s Jesus’ great dream, his community of people, living life together, loving each other to death, just like he does. Fellowship isn’t a peripheral thing we do, it’s the act of living life together with Jesus. That’s what salvation is.

“God didn’t send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17)  
Condemnation drives people apart, destroying community. That quite obviously isn’t Jesus’ goal. He saves us, so that we might do the opposite of condemning, that we might forgive, that we might live life together,

enjoying each other, celebrating life together living out Jesus’ love to each other.

No wonder to shun another sister or brother in Christ is abhorrent to God. It goes against the very thing Jesus gave his life for. No wonder Jesus says; “if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to that person; then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23,24) Separation, division, condemnation is the very opposite of what Jesus has given his life to create.

Jesus could have saved himself a lot of pain if all that was going to happen was that we feel good about ourselves and neglect each other. That’s not why Jesus cried out in utter agony; “My God ,

my God, why have you abandoned me? (Matthew 27:46) Jesus, tasting the horrors of hell. What unimaginable agony Jesus went through, so we don't have to live abandoned, forsaken, alone.

If all the church is to be is another club where we get together for regular meetings, raise money for charity, and then go home to live independently of each other, Jesus wasted his life. Jesus tasted the horrors of hell for nothing.

I'm not saying this to condemn you, because I'm in the same boat as you. But I'm convinced Jesus is bringing this to our attention because it is so important, and he wants us to keep it at the fore front of our living. Jesus wants to motivate us to do his will, and we know Jesus' will is to live life together with him. I'm living out what Jesus gave his life for. That certainly motivates me.

What are some of the tools Jesus has given us for living life together?

John 20; "Later on that day; the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he showed them his hands and side. The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his

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### Fellowship isn't a nice thing we do...

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greeting: 'Peace be with you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.' Then he took a deep breath and breathed on them. 'Receive the Holy Spirit,' he said, 'If you forgive someone's sins, they are gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?'" (John 20:19-23)

The first tool we have is peace with God. We are not living independent lives, but one's built on the intimacy of trust. What a great place to be living from. Not what I don't have, but living the

intimacy of trust and love I have with God through Jesus.

Notice that Jesus didn't condemn his disciples but set them free from their fears. He doesn't have a witch hunt. Jesus doesn't play the blame game, but he forgives their sins so that they can live at peace with each other. So in their lives they can give

expression to the peace they have with God. So they can give expression to the relationship of love and trust Jesus has created.

The second tool is that we are sent. This week meditate on this phrase; "Just as the Father sent me (Jesus), I send you." (John 20:21) Jesus was sent by the Father to draw people back into loving relationship with him and each other. That's now our goal. That's what each and every Christian; disciple of Jesus, has been sent to do.

We have God's blessing as we set about living life together, loving one another as we are loved

by Jesus. You can be 100% sure that God will bless this because it's what he's sent you to do.

The third tool is that we have the Holy Spirit. I'm not inviting people to live life together with God, without God being present. The Holy Spirit is present, ready, willing and able to live life together with Jesus' community of disciples. As we gather as Jesus' people, the Holy Spirit is present, wanting to get involved.

The fourth tool we have is that we are empowered to forgive. That's a relationship tool. It's people you forgive. Why? So that your relationship with them can be kept healthy and strong. Jesus has empowered each of us to forgive, so that we can live life together. Jesus knows that when you have a community you'll have issues. You'll have hurt feelings, thoughtless words, missed opportunities, misunderstanding, anger, frustration. In short you'll have plenty of opportunity to practice forgiveness.

Why? So that we might have a healthy community of disciples, who reflect Jesus' very nature in the way we live life together.

The fifth tool we have is God's love. God so loved you that he gave his one and only Son to die for you. In Jesus you are loved by God. That makes you a loved person, and loved people are able to

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### Fellowship ... it's what Jesus gave his life for

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love. Jesus isn't asking us to give something we don't have. You are loved. At your baptism the Father declared to the world: "This is my child, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life." (Matthew 3:17 MSG) We are equipped to love one another – to be the community of disciples Jesus gave his life for us to be.

The sixth tool we have is our physical possessions and time. We are blessed by God so that we might do what? So that we might pass that blessing

on. So our love can take down-to-earth form and be real.

So how might we apply these truths to our living and not leave them as rhetoric we agree with?

Coming soon is an opportunity to invite people to join you living life together with Jesus as part of a L.I.F.E

community. L.I.F.E stands for Living in Faith Everyday. We will be launching a tool for starting new L.I.F.E communities with a Passover Meal

around the 20 March, and then a study series: "Prayer & Prophecy – the art of communication Jesus' way" between the 30 March and the 4 May. A tool to forge your community on Jesus and his will, that you might springboard into the future living life together with Jesus.

If you feel Jesus leading you this way, I invite you to start praying and inviting people to join you. If you feel Jesus leading you to Host a L.I.F.E community, I invite you to tell me so I