

other with true Christian love.” (Heb. 13:1) Continue means to make a habit of it, to do it all the time.

So the five points were; God is love, love is a choice and a commitment, love is an action not just emotion, love is a skill, love needs to be our best habit.

Jesus definitely wants us to be growing in his love, that’s what marks us as his disciple. “By this shall all people know that you are My disciples, if you have love one to another.” (John 13:35)

So I invite you to join in this adventure of love as over this series

we seek to grow as Jesus’ loving people. Let’s not simply talk about love but find ways to love each other as Jesus loves us. Jesus loved us by dying to himself that we might benefit. If we all join in the effect will be more profound. If we all invite a friend Jesus’ love will multiply.

Let’s pray.
Jesus grow me over this time in knowing your love for me. Let me discover your love for me in a deeper more profound and moving way than I already have. Lead me to someone to share your love with and invite them to join me on this wonderful adventure with you. Jesus drive

out all that inhibits your love and keeps me cold. I want to be on fire with your love. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



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

25 April 2010

“Let love be your greatest aim” 1 Cor. 14:1

40 Days of Love—Introduction

Today we’re preparing to launch together into the 40 Days of Love journey. Is love important? Is being loved important? Is loving others important? We’re in the season of Easter where Jesus cries out to everyone; YES. That’s why he came, that’s why he died, that’s why today he intercedes with the Father for you, that’s why Jesus is returning, because at his very core is the desire to love you, because ‘God is Love’.

Unfortunately the word ‘Love’ is very vague so let’s try and clarify what we mean when we use the word; ‘Love’. Here are five things we find in the Bible about love.

First; we love because, God loves us.

In first John we read; “Love comes from God for God is love.” (1 John 4:7-8) What a powerful truth, God doesn’t simply love, he is love. It’s his core, it’s his character, it’s who he is.

That reminds me that love isn’t a commodity I give and take with, but the love we’re talking about comes from our core. It needs to come from who we are. Love can’t exist on it’s own, it always has to come from a person, and come from their core. When we love we give ourselves away.

So John reminds us; “We love because God first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) Quite simply I can’t give what I don’t have. Thank God in Jesus I am loved, I am precious to the Father, he has given himself

completely for me. On the cross Jesus, that’s God, gave himself away, completely for you and I.

This week I read; ‘So the world’s and the churches problem isn’t that we don’t love God enough. Our problem is that we don’t realise how much he loves us in Jesus. If we realised how much God loves us – extravagant, irresistible, unconditional love – we’d have to love him back.’ That stuck a cord with me.

As I reflected on it I was reminded that people don’t change when faced with a tirade. I think most people know things could be better, that things are wrong with our world, I don’t need to blast them, they know it. What people

are desperately seeking, what I'm seeking, is the answer. God's answer in Jesus is to open the door to his heart of love, and draw us into a loving relationship with him, lived from his very being into the depth of our very being, so that we are loved to love just like him.

The second thing from the Bible is that love is a choice and a commitment.

You choose to love or you choose not to love. Let's not believe the myth that love is uncontrollable.

Our emotions can be uncontrollable. Attraction is uncontrollable. No doubt about it. Arousal is uncontrollable, but attraction and arousal aren't love.

Love is how we use those emotions and happenings of life in a way that truly benefits the other person, especially when that

means I have to give of myself for no reward.

In Deuteronomy we read; "Choose to love the Lord your God and commit yourself to him." (Deut. 30:20 NLT)

Have you noticed that when people get married that are asked

"Everything you do must be done in love."
1 Cor. 16:14

to make a choice and commit themselves to each other, no matter the circumstance they find themselves in; richer – poorer, sickness – health, whatever the circumstance it doesn't determine their love, but their love determines their response.

That certainly is true of God in Jesus. His love determined his response, so on the cross when he felt

totally unloved what did he chose to do? Trust the Father with his life, because he knew that he could trust the Father's commitment.

The third point is that; Love is an action not just emotion.

Emotions come and go, love knows how to remain. That's one great quality about God, his love never quits. His emotions don't determine his love. Sure his love finds expression through his emotions, but his love is never determined by his emotions.

In Jesus God has chosen to love us and then he acted; he was born, he lived and taught among us, then he gave his life on the cross. Now if emotion determined Jesus' action he would have jumped off the cross, because every part of his being was screaming out in agony.

But no, he chose to let his love and the love of his Father for him determine his action.

Which reminds me; acting in love when you don't feel it is the highest form of love. Because love is an action not just an emotion. So James reminds me that talk without action isn't loving.

So when you're faced with unloving feelings remember; it is always easier to act your way into a feeling than it is to feel your way into an action. Don't wait to feel right, because then you may never act and just miss-out.

Jesus didn't wait to feel good about cleaning his disciples' feet, he just did it and set them an example to follow, to do.

Which reminds me that Jesus has come to make disciples. That's not people who talk about

what Jesus did and taught, but who go and do it. Because love is an action, based on a committed choice. We grow in loving by loving.

So the fourth point from the Bible is that love is a skill I can learn.

"We love because God first loved us."
1 John 4:19

That reminds me that I can't simply opt out by saying others are naturally more loving than I am, meaning I'm justifying myself for not trying. In Jesus, loving as he does is something we can get good at. So John wrote; "Dear friends, let us practice loving each other, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are getting to know Him better." (1

John 4:7) I'm going to circle the word practice. The only way to get skilled at something is to practice it. And when you start you're never as good as after you've practiced for many years. When you start don't expect perfection, then you'll be tempted by the emotion of failure to quit. Just because you practice something doesn't make it regimented and unloving, it shows you're prepared to give of yourself that others are loved. The fifth point about love from the Bible is that; Love is a habit. In other words it's what you seek to do all the time. It's not just a once of thing, but it characterises your life. That means Jesus' love shapes our lifestyle. Paul writes in Hebrews; "Continue to love each

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