

up with the level of loving I'm at. When I do serious looking at my life I can see a whole lot more of me than I like. I know that one day I'm going to stand before God, and God's going to ask me: Did you learn to love me more than anything else? Did you spend time with me? Did you learn to love everybody else? And did you spend time with them?

I more than anything else want to be known as a loving person. I want people to look at me and go, 'A little overweight, but that guy loves. He knows how to love.'"

That goal echoes my desire too. I too want to grow in loving God and people. I want to grow as a loving person, and be known as a loving person, so that Jesus gets a great reputation among those I live with. I know I've got a long way to go, but the exciting thing for me today is, I'm having a go, and I know God will bless it because that's what matters most to him.

Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me in Jesus. Help me this

week to daily spend more time with those I love, giving myself for them. Sacrificing other things and not the people you call me to love in favour of things. Jesus grow me to be more and more loving just like you. 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

2 May 2010

LOVE MATTERS MOST

40 Days of Love



I'm glad we're doing this series because it reminds me about what matters most to God. And thankfully it's not making me squirm, zapping me with thunderbolts. What matters most to God is love. Because he is love, and he wants to stay true to himself.

I reckon that's why when Jesus was asked what's the most important commandment – in other words what's most important to God – his answer revolves around love. "Which is the most important command?" Jesus replied, 'LOVE the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: LOVE your neighbour as much as

you love yourself.'" (Matt. 22:36-39 LB)

What matters most to God is that we know we are loved by him, then we are able to love him, and love our neighbour. And the 'Good News' is that in Jesus, God is keen to grow each of us. I'm excited about that, and I'm looking forward to growing in Jesus love. He knows I need it, and he's able to do it.

So today as we open ourselves up to Jesus, letting him grow us in love, by looking at three laws of love.

Law number one: The best use of life is love.

Lots of other valuable things want to distract me from what is best. What did Jesus invest himself in? His

ministry was only for three years. Three focused years where he opens God's heart to us that we might be loved and love as God does.

So love is the best use of life because that's the whole point of Jesus life. That's the whole point of faith. Faith means we have been changed from the heart to love as Jesus does, and that love finds expression in our lives.

God's love now shapes our lives, our decision, our time priorities. God's love in Jesus brings all the different pieces of my life together, as they are now all ways of expressing this amazing love that God has for me in Jesus. My life isn't a lot of disconnected pieces of a pie, but a wonderful

tapestry of love woven by God through Jesus.

Jesus. For me that's a breath of fresh air.

sincere, not through empty words."

So Paul writes; "Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything else together." (Colossians 3:14 CEV)

So when I find myself being judgmental, or putting other people down, being critical or negative, harping on about perfectionist

Question: What is the most desired gift of love? The most desired gift of love and the most priceless gift of love is focused attention. It is time.

I love being reminded that Love matters most to God, because so often I hear that

things, I need to repent and ask God to refresh me in his love, because

Because if I don't have time to invest in my relationships, in loving

performance, and perfect performance are the mark. We celebrate winners, those who outperform

you it doesn't happen.

You spell love T-I-M-E

I read this week; "Busyness destroys relationships. It substitutes shallow

everyone else. This need to be perfect, to have everything just right, which leads to condemning those who

they're all signs I've drifted 180 degrees from where God wants me.

frenzy for deep friendship. Busyness feeds the ego but it starves those who love us. It fills the calendar but it fractures the family."

don't just becomes so tedious and sapping of life. Thank God, in

Law number two: The best expression of love is time.

Jesus, what matters most to him is his love, loving us to the full, being true to himself, for God is love.

You spell love T-I-M-E. The Bible says this in 1 John 3:18 "We must show love through actions [Love is not something you feel,

So we read; "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." (Galatians 5:6 NIV)

Life isn't about you being prefect, it's all about you loving as you are loved by God in

something you say. It's something you do.] We must show love through actions. Actions that are

So I wonder why I let myself get busy and then think about how I'll squeeze time for

relationships into my busy life. Why don't I wonder how I'll

squeeze in these other things into my life full of relationships?

One radical thought is to watch less TV, or computer games to make time for people. Could I forgo the football in favour of building

relationships, in favour of giving myself to another person, spending time with them?

In Ephesians we read; "Live a life filled with love for others following the example of Christ, who loved you and gave himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins." (Eph. 5:2

NLT) And so I read this week; 'If it isn't a sacrifice it's not real love. You can give without love but you can't love without giving. Love means giving up. Giving up my time for your time. It means I give up my

preference for your preference."

So when I love I sacrifice my time, being there for you. And that is certainly what God, in Jesus loves to do. He loves to give his time, so that he can share life with us. Today we're being reminded that this is his passion.

The Best Time to Love is NOW!

Sacrificing isn't a chore but a delight, because there is nothing more he'd rather do that spend his time with you. For God, in Jesus, other things can wait.

Law number three: The best time to love is now.

So we read; "Whenever we have the opportunity we should do good to everyone." (Gal. 6:10 NLT) Whenever we've

got the opportunity, that means now.

"Use every chance you have for doing good." (Eph. 5:16 NCV) In other words, now.

Now is the best time to show love, to sacrifice what you want to be doing for the other person's good. Now is the time to invest in what matters most. Other things can wait.

The simple reality is if I sacrifice love for things, I'll end up with a life of regrets. I'll regret not spending time with those I love, and I won't be able to get that time back. Time, what a precious commodity, to be used wisely in loving people.

Finally let me share with you Rick Warren's desired goal when he did the 40 Days of Love. "My goal is that I will become more loving. I don't know about you but I'm fed