

Thank God that in Jesus we have the power to live out Proverbs 17:9 “Love forgets mistakes (in other words you don’t keep bringing them up. You don’t keep a record of things to use as ammunition.) Nagging about them parts the best of friends.”

Notice God isn’t saying that these events don’t hurt, just don’t let them shape who you are, don’t let them shape your life. If I keep a list of hurts in my life surprise, surprise, I’ll

begin to feel hurt, I’ll feel depressed, I’ll feel unvalued. All are lies.

In Jesus you are loved, you are precious and you are valued. In fact that’s what God said at your baptism; ‘This is my child, whom I love, with them I’m well pleased’. If we’re going to repeat anything in our minds, repeat that. ‘I’m God’s child in Jesus, who he loves, and with me he’s well pleased.’ Then I’ll be moving toward what I’m focused on.

Let us pray.
Jesus help me to be tactful not just truthful. Help me to be gentle not judgemental. Help me to be understanding not demanding. When people hurt me help me to not repeat it but to delete it. To be tender without surrender to the people who I need to set boundaries with in my life. Jesus, I want to become a loving person like you. Please grow me to be all that you have in mind, to your glory, honour and praise. 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

30 May 2010 LOVE LETS IT GO 40 Days of Love



Yesterday I was asked to do something and totally forgot about it. So it didn’t get done. Has anything like this happened to you? Made a mistake, intended to do the right thing but didn’t, got angry and lashed out, condemned others. It’s times like these I thank God that he has opened the doorway of forgiveness. Then I can say; ‘Sorry for forgetting, I know that doesn’t show much respect for you, please forgive me.’ And then in a Christian context the response is; ‘I forgive you.’

Jesus doesn’t want anyone living from the mistakes of the past, but living from the power of his love for them and the forgiveness he has won. Forgiveness spoken in Jesus’ name is never

cheap. It cost Jesus his life.

Thank God Jesus doesn’t live controlled by past hurts, but when he encounters his disciples after his resurrection his first words to them are; ‘Peace be with you.’ Now they are free to live from Jesus’ love, and to live out Jesus’ love, rather than hang onto past hurts, letting that shape them. Sadly hurt people, hurt people. Loved people are empowered to; love people.

Today we are looking at letting go of hurts so we can be letting Jesus’ grace and mercy go into our lives. Grace and mercy are the ground where love flourishes.

In 1 Corinthians 13 we read; “Love is not rude. Love does not demand

its own way. Love is not irritable, and love keeps no record of when it has been wronged.” (1 Cor. 13:5 NLT)

Unfortunately this highlights four areas I need to work on. Work on in myself and work on for forgiving others.

The first is; Love is not Rude.

So: I must be tactful and not just truthful. There just is no room in love to be rude, to be abusive. So love is tactful and doesn’t respond in kind to harsh words. When someone is rude, don’t be rude in turn.

One way I can be rude is by not listening, by not giving my full attention when speaking with another person. So God reminds us; “Answering before

listening is both stupid and rude.” Proverbs 18:13 MSG

I need to remember not to be rude but tactful and; “Stop being bitter and angry and mad at each other. Don’t yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful and forgiving. Forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.” (Eph. 4:31-32 CEV)

The goal of love is always to build people up, so telling it just like it is, just speaking your mind isn’t loving, often it’s just rude. Telling it like it could be, telling it like Jesus makes it possible, telling it like it might be, telling it like it could be with hope, that’s what love does, that’s what builds people up.

Second; Love does not demand its own way. So: I must be understanding, not demanding.

Jesus is the best example of this, Philippians 2; “Your attitude should be the same that Jesus Christ had. Thought he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and

Love is tactful, understanding, gentle, and forgiving

appeared in human form.” (Phil. 2:7-7 NLT)
Jesus didn’t demand his own way, in fact his whole life was lived the Father’s way. Jesus understood the Father and so he trusted his way. In Jesus we come to understand the depth of God’s love for us so we can trust living life his way, not demanding our own way.

Unfortunately I know I often what things done

my way. But love is understanding, not demanding. Understanding how much I’m loved in Jesus, so that I can understand other people’s hurts and their need for love. Understanding that not all people know this love and are reacting to past hurts that they

can’t let go of. So that means in the equation of relationships I’m the one who has the capacity to change. I’m secure in Jesus’

love. I have the Holy Spirit living with me, I have the capacity to react from the love I have.

The third aspect of love; love is not irritable. So: I must be gentle not judgemental.

So the Apostle Paul says; “Brothers and sisters, if someone in your group does something wrong, you who are spiritual should go to that person and

gently help make them right again. But be careful, because you might be tempted to sin, too.” (Galatians 6:1 NCV)

Judgemental means I lord it over people; cause I’m right and you’re wrong. If that, or anything like it is my attitude, then I haven’t been careful and I have sinned. Pride is in many ways the worst of all sins, it’s really me playing god. And I know God isn’t

thrilled about people replacing him with themselves. When I notice someone acting in a way that is wrecking their relationship with Jesus, I’m to go and speak with them out of love for them, because they’re precious to Jesus. He’s given his life for them. That’s how I’m gentle. I also remind myself; I’m not perfect either. I’m gentle because my goal isn’t to be right, but to help nurture the

relationship of love Jesus has created.

So in Proverbs; God’s book of wisdom, I’m reminded; “Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.” (Proverbs 15:4 NLT)

Love is not irritable,

I end up doing what I focus on!

but gentle, seeking to bring life and health. When I’m irritable all I do is tell people what they’re doing wrong, and sometimes with volume. When I’m gentle I seek to bring life and health as I show people what they can be in Christ Jesus. I give them hope, a vision to lift them to see how things can be living under Jesus’ rule.

So love is tactful, understanding and gentle. The fourth

aspect from our text is that love keeps no record of wrongs. So you don’t repeat it, you delete it.

If I keep repeating something in my mind, if I keep a record, I become what I’m focused on. Here’s a real subtle trap of the devil. I end up doing what I’m focused on. If I focus on my hurts, going over them in my life, I end up living those hurts into my life.

If you focus on the promises of God in Jesus, you move toward the promises of God we have in Jesus. If you focus on the wonderful potential you have in Jesus you’ll be moving toward that potential.

Sadly I sometimes get tricked into thinking I have to remember a hurt because that person shouldn’t get away with it. I won’t forget it and that means they’ll pay for it.