

ridicule and condemn once the person has admitted their wrong is only to add the death blow to trust. They will be much less likely to trust you again and risk being vulnerable with you again.

And once I've acted that way I begin to expect the same in return, destroying my trust in other people. I begin to believe they'll act the same way, after all I did, I don't deserve better.

Thank God in Jesus we are saved from all that horrific pain and hurt. In Jesus I have

the wonderful security of a love that is greater than my stupidity. I can always be open and honest with Jesus, knowing I'll hear his glorious forgiving tones, every time. So that I can offer the same forgiveness to others, encouraging them to be forgiving, risking believing in Jesus love will win.

What do you think of when you hear the word love; faithfulness, loyalty, commitment, trust, forgiveness, Jesus, living all this out on

you, so that you can now be a living expression of this most wonderful loving person.

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for your faithfulness, for your loyalty and trustworthiness. Thank you for being 100% committed to us. Thank you for forgiving us. Daily fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we might live out all these qualities of yours, which you have blessed us with, so that our lives are living expressions of love to you. Amen.

22 April 2012
LOVE IS?
1 John 3:1-7



Today we begin looking at a series of readings from first John. And one of the key words found throughout this letter is 'LOVE'. What is the first thought that comes to your mind when you hear the word love?

(Short clip: Let's see what these people think.)

The word we translate as 'Love' has a strong sense of purpose, of decision about it. The love John sees reflected in Jesus isn't mere sentiment that evaporates after a moment. In Jesus, John witnessed a love that was determined and committed, a love that was loyal to

the point of death. What a powerful emotion love is, and in Jesus that emotion is shaped by his unyielding desire to do his best for us, to give himself wholly as he trusts the Father with his life.

Love certainly adds passion to life. It stirs our emotions. It ignites our anger. It adds the colours of the rainbow to our lives. Without love, even the most enjoyable event seems lacking. Love drives each of us to go beyond ourselves. And when we live that way we're a glimpse of the image of God that Adam and Eve were created to be.

Only a glimpse, for sadly they were tempted by the devil to take life into their own hands and seek to be a reflection of themselves. Sadly when we live this way we can only become selfish, and that's not a very appealing look at all.

Thankfully in Jesus we are re-created in God's image, for Jesus is the very image of God. In Jesus we once again have the capability of living beyond ourselves, of giving ourselves away so that the other person might benefit, and as we see them benefit we are able to rejoice. No envy or complaining that life

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

is unfair, but rejoicing.

So John boldly declares; "What marvellous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it – we're called children of God! That's who we really are." (1 John 3:1)

It's a result of the Father's determined will, that in Jesus we are reborn as the Father's children.

Once again we have his DNA, we have the capacity to reflect his image in the way we live. We are able to love as we are loved. In Jesus we are loved children of the Father in whom he delights. So now we have a strength to draw upon greater than how we feel. Now we have a purpose to live for greater than our own comfort and ease. Now we have a

determination that enable us to sacrifice ourselves for the other person's benefit, rejoicing as we do.

John also gives us a warning in this passage. "All who indulge in a sinful life are dangerously

Love is Loyal

lawless, for sin is a major disruption of God's order. Surely you know that Christ showed up in order to get rid of sin. There is no sin in him, and sin is not part of his program." (1 John 3:4 -6)

Jesus didn't live to indulge himself; that's sin. Jesus knew the Father intimately and was secure in him. Jesus lived to love the Father, and

he loved the Father by trusting him with his life. Jesus trusted the Father's will, even when it felt wrong and an easier option was what tempted him.

But when it comes to trust there is no easier option. You trust, and so you act. Jesus trusted the Father implicitly and willingly placed his life into the Father's hands.

Trusting that the Father knew what was best. Trusting that through his death we would benefit. And in that he rejoiced. No complaining that it wasn't fair, what about me! Jesus love was focused, determined, loyal, committed, and so he acted faithfully, trusting the Father.

Have you noticed that Christianity is about

living faithful? Faithful to Jesus, trusting him with our living.

Without faithfulness love soon evaporates. Jesus shows that love needs to be much more than something that makes me feel good. Love is faithful, loyal, committed to the point of death. There are no half measures; it is all or nothing. And Jesus gave his all, gives his all, so that you can have life to the full.

So a self-indulgent life isn't a life of love, it's the opposite. If I live self focused I can only ever hope to be selfish. And selfishness can never produce a selfless life!

Here in lies the challenge we face as we grow to ever

greater maturity in Jesus. Jesus leads us to live a selfless life, for our life isn't focused on ourselves but on him, and through Jesus on the Father. The Father who loves us and marvellously has re-birthed us as his children.

Love is Faithful

So now we can live life trusting our Father, letting him shape our every action. As we live this way our life becomes a living expression of love for the Father in whom we trust.

We don't love the Father with empty platitudes but as we trust him with our life, letting him shape our living, just as

Jesus lived. Jesus' life was an expression of love to the Father as he trusted him letting the Father's will shape all he did.

Jesus life was an act of faith in his Father. He trusted him implicitly.

Have you noticed how quickly love disappears once trust is broken? Thank God that Jesus has blessed us with the gift of forgiveness. Where we are able to admit our wrong and ask to be forgiven. In admitting our wrong we are making ourselves vulnerable, totally at the mercy of the other person. And here trust is once again re-birthed, as the other person responds with forgiveness.

To respond with; 'I told you so' or to