

triumphs in loving us. That's why the cross is such a symbol of victory; because humanity threw it's worst at Jesus and he didn't withhold his affection, but in the very event he was loving us. He was taking the curse of the Father upon himself that we might live under the blessing of the Father as his children, whom he loves and delights in.

If Jesus had waited till we deserved his love, guess what, he'd still be waiting! Thank God Jesus didn't wait, but he took the initiative and loved; sacrificing himself for us. Yes Jesus does believe love should go as far as giving your

life for somebody. In fact that's how he plans us to live; daily. Daily giving ourselves away for each other, because we are so secure in his love of us.

Go out this week and invite Jesus to grow you to great maturity as he places opportunities in your life where you can give yourself away that the other person might benefit, for their good, at your cost. Go and enjoy loving as you are loved by Jesus.

Let us pray.
Jesus, I know that I can't love as you do without you. Daily fill me with the Holy Spirit that in your power I love these people here today as you love me. Grow me so that nothing is too much, and no fear so imposing that I can't give myself away for my brothers and sisters in Christ. May your character be displayed to everyone through the way we sacrifice ourselves for each other; to your glory, honour and praise.
Amen.

29 April 2012
LOVE IS SACRIFICE
1 John 3:16-24



In our reading from first John we heard; "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." (1 John 3:16) Which raises the question; 'Should love go as far as giving your life for somebody?' What's comes to your mind? Let's see what these people think.

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

Jesus reminds us that love most definitely goes as far as giving it's life for the other person. So John continued; "And we ought to lay down our lives for one another." (1 John 3:16)

This is the wonderful new nature Jesus has created in us. As the Father's children now have his character flowing through our veins, so we are empowered to sacrifice ourselves for each other.

We are empowered to love as Jesus does. So John calls us to keep God's command, "and this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, - that means live from his power not my own - and to love one another as he commanded us." (1 John 3:23)

Of course love should go as far as giving our life for somebody. In fact John reminds us this morning that when I don't I'm not loving

as I am loved. The way Jesus loved us was to die for us. Did Jesus give his life for you? Yes. Now that I'm loved this way, I'm empowered to love the same way.

What a fantastic world we'd live in if everyone were to love each other this way. Instead of taking we'd be giving. Instead of asking; 'What's in it for me?' We'd be asking; 'What do I have that you need?' I don't know if I can imagine a world characterised by selfless giving. But Jesus has!!!

In fact that's what Jesus has given his life for. A world characterised by selfless giving. A community

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

characterised by sacrifice; where nothing is too much in my effort to love you, to do my best for you according to Jesus.

This love characterised the early church. The church being Jesus' disciples who practiced loving each other as they were loved by him.

So, "All the believers were together (that's a close community), and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need." (Acts 2:44,45) Who would you sell your possessions for?

Notice that we are not called to do this because other people deserve it. What is our motivation? Why give yourself away so that someone else will benefit? Why go without so that someone else's needs might be met?

Because Jesus has already done this for us, and I can trust Jesus with my life. So my actions become a living expression of love to Jesus. I love because I'm loved, loved beyond my wildest dreams in Jesus. The one who has given his life for me, so that I can now

Should love go as far as giving your life for somebody?

live enjoying the wonderful freedom of loving as I am loved.

In Jesus fear is replaced, in fact John writes; "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment." (1 John 4:18)

Our motivation is Jesus' love. I don't want to enslave you in fear. I don't want to make you indebted to

me because I did you a favour. No I want to live in the wonderful freedom of Jesus' love; giving because I have so much to give. I am forgiven. I am a child of God the Father. I am loved and precious. And now my life is opportunity after opportunity after opportunity to give

expression to this love through acts of sacrifice.

Sacrificing my time so that

another feels needed, listened to, valued.

Sacrificing my possessions so that another's physical needs are met. After all that's the reason Jesus has so richly blessed me, so that I'm empowered to love. When I have food I can love the hungry. When I have clothes I can love the naked. I can give myself away through these gifts, living out my love for Jesus who has loved me.

It dawns on me that love is an action; "let us not love with words or tongue but with action and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

Jesus has imagined a world where we are willing to die for each other, daily. In fact that is what Jesus imagines his church to be! Jesus has empowered us to be willing to die for each other; daily.

Should love go as far as giving your life for somebody? Of course, that's what love is. If I'm not prepared to give myself away for you, then I'm not loving as Jesus does. But I do have the power and ability to learn and grow in this love. As we heard last week; "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And

that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1)

Here's a trap the devil likes to use to enslave us. He subtly twists our thinking so we believe God will only love me if I'm loving, if I'm good like him. If you ever have such a thought please consign it to your

Jesus gave his life for you!

rubbish bin, cause that's where it belongs.

God never loves you because you deserve it. You never deserve love. That's crazy talk, love is always a free gift where someone sacrifices themselves because they want to. In Jesus God loves you because he wants to. In Jesus God wins forgiveness for me; what a fantastic act of love, because God's greatest desire is to

love you. To share his life with you in a loving relationship.

Do you notice that God in Jesus always takes the initiative to love? He never waits for you to deserve it. You can't! Love is always a free gift; that we can receive, that we can rejoice in, that we can enjoy living in.

Who are you withholding yourself from

because you feel they are taking you for granted? Who are you withholding yourself from because you feel hurt by them? Who are you withholding yourself from because they need to earn your respect? Who are you withholding yourself from because you feel they don't deserve it?

Thank God, in Jesus, he doesn't withhold himself, but takes the worst humanity can throw at him, and