

Holy Spirit to live out this relationship of sacrificial love. Paul didn't simply talk about it, he sought to live it, because in Jesus this isn't some pipe-dream but a reality we can discover and enjoy.

Jesus has made it possible to live a life compelled by the Father's love for you. Not a slave to unmet needs and wants. But freely sacrificing all because that's your new nature in Jesus.

Thank God that what can compel us is Jesus; God's sacrificial love, forgiving and empowering us to live and grow true to who we are in him.

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for giving your life that we might be re-born in you; children chosen and marked by the Father's love, pride of his life. Daily forgive us for the times we've let other things or people compel our action or we've only acted out of fear or because we felt there was something in it for us. Jesus grow us daily as your disciples that we live and mature in being compelled to being true to who we are in you. May we sacrifice our all that many more people come to know you and the love you have, 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

5 February 2012

COMPELLED

1 Corinthians 9:16-23



The word that caught my attention from our reading from 1 Corinthians is; 'Compelled'. Paul wrote; 'I'm *compelled* to do it.' (1 Cor. 9:16) What compels your action?

Paul proclaimed the Good News about Jesus Kingdom, whether you paid him or not. What has such a passion in your life that you would do it whether you were rewarded or not? Nobody said thank you, would you still do it? Nobody cared and took you for granted, would you still do it? It cost you, would you still do it? What passion in your life compels you?

Paul proclaimed the Good News about Jesus Kingdom even though it cost him his freedom, his reputation, his income and ultimately

his life. You couldn't shut him up.

In the SOAP readings we're going through the book of Acts and one feature that gets me is how often Paul is kicked out of a town, only to go to the next town and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah, declaring his Kingdom. Here's a few examples: "When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him." (Acts 13:45) Paul goes to the next city. "Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went

back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe." (Acts 14:19,20) Stoning was the Jewish form of capital punishment. What would you have done when you got to Derbe? You've just escaped, barely with your life. What would you do in this new place?

"They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith." (Acts 14:21) Paul is compelled to proclaim the gospel in the very next city. You can't shut him up; the love of Jesus, the message of salvation through Jesus, Jesus'

call on his life compels him to action.

What compels you to action?

I'm always struck by the name God gave to Moses when he asked what he should say when the Children of Israel asked him who sent him. What was God's response? "God said to Moses, 'I Am Who I Am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I AM has

What compels you to action?

In Lutheran circles we often talk about 'Law' and 'Gospel'. One way of defining 'Law' is being forced into action by an external threat, or an external reward. We do it because we have to, because there is something in it for us.

For Jesus, it's loving you. For the Father, it's loving you. For the Holy Spirit, it's loving you. Their history with us is one based on their love. It is their passion which compels them into action?

sent me to you."”(Exodus 3:14)

So the Father is prepared to sacrifice what is most precious to him, his

What COMPELS you?

I love that name; 'I Am Who I Am'.

God is true to himself, he's not manipulated, he doesn't play politics to get your approval. No way, he's always true to himself.

son, Jesus, so that we might have the hope of life lived in their amazing love. You can crucify them, but they'll come back seeking to build a relationship of love, because that's what compels them. It's who they are. This passion is what they've given their life for; to build a loving, committed relationship, based on a compelling passion for each other.

But this form of motivation can never form the passionate relationship that God is after. For once the external force is removed, once the carrot is gone there's no action.

One way of defining 'Gospel' is living from an internal motivation created by God's eternal passion for us in Jesus. I'm not forced to, I want to, I have to, I'm compelled because it is at the core of who I am.

His motivation for action comes from who he is. That's what compels him to action. He has to, he has to be true to who he is no matter what. You could crucify him and he'll stay true to who he is. Everyone could be against him and he'll stay true to who he is.

Jesus came into the world so that we could once again have the image of God re-created in us. So that we live true to who we are. So that who we are compels us into action. So when we were baptism we were united with Jesus, and there the Father said; "You are my Child, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life." (Mark 1:11)

take away all the rules and regulations and we'll act just the same, because it's who we are. It's who I am; a loved child of God, who has poured his life into, and is passionate about living that life together, about discovering that life together as an expression of the love

wanted to be *in* on it!" (1 Cor. 9:19-23)

Paul's life is an expression of the love Jesus has shown him. Paul's life is a living out of the forgiveness he has experienced through Jesus' call. Paul can't but tell others about Jesus and the hope, love, grace, mercy and peace he has found in this most precious relationship.

That's who you are, and the Holy Spirit is there with us daily that we grow to maturity learning how to live true to who we are. Growing as Jesus' disciples, letting the love of the Father shape our lives. Living from the Passion that God our Heavenly Father has for us in Jesus, being compelled by that most precious relationship.

Jesus is COMPELLED to stay true to himself

that is shared. That's Paul; "Even though I am free of the demands and expectation of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people... I've become just about every sort of servant

That's part of the nature of love; it wants to tell everyone. It wants to be shared. Another part of the nature of love in Jesus is that it finds expression in sacrifice. In giving that the other person knows they are loved at the givers expense.

Jesus has come and given his life, freely, that we might live freely compelled by his love, his grace, his mercy for us. You can

there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I

What compels you? Today Jesus reminds us that we too can live like Paul; compelled by the Father's love for us in Jesus, daily encouraged and strengthened by the