

I trust Jesus wants the best for me, and I trust he knows what is the best, and I trust that he can give me the power to do what he says, so I'm seeking to follow him.

And when I get it wrong, I admit it to him, apologising to him, seeking his forgiveness, and try again to live as he leads.

Let us pray. Jesus we want to follow you. Thank you for calling us. Help us to follow you in the area of our sexuality; bind up all thoughts that lead us away from you and flood our minds with you passion and love, that we might discover true love as we die to ourselves, take up our cross and follow 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

15 January 2012

WHO DO YOU TRUST?

1 Corinthians 6:12-20



When you hear the word 'love' what do you think of? In ancient Corinth they worshipped the goddess of love; Aphrodite. They thought of sex. They thought that love was gained through sexual encounters. What does Jesus say about sex?

Does he say it is good? Does he say go for it? Does he say chastity is a virtue? Does he say you need to experiment? Does he say you can look but don't touch? What does Jesus say about sex?

For what Jesus says determines our action, empowers our action. As Christians we're not interested in some notion of morality, dividing people into the moral and the immoral. Then all you end up

with is a debate about what is moral.

Corinth was full of people who loved to debate the issue. So much so it even infected the church community causing division. Some said Paul was right, others Apollos, others Peter and those who wanted to win the argument claimed to follow Christ. They loved to debate, to listen to wonderful speakers, but in the end they were divided, and quite clearly Jesus isn't divided. We're called to follow him, sacrificing ourselves for each other, that the other person might benefit. The goal isn't to win an argument, but to follow Jesus, being willing to die for each other, out of love, Jesus' love, for one another.

One thing Jesus does say is that we are all lost. So left to ourselves all we'll end up with is an endless debate; going round and round and round, with people stubbornly sticking to what they believe. Jesus has called us to follow him. To give up on being stubborn, to give up on debating, hoping to be proven right. We're all lost. So left to ourselves our debating will never find a solution, it's just part of the problem.

But in Jesus we're not lost, we are found in him; Good News! We don't live apart from Jesus, our passion, who we are is found in him, in following him, in building a close, intimate loving relationship with him. A relationship of trust where we risk our lives following Jesus.

<p>Jesus doesn't enter our endless debates. He simply says; "Follow me". We read that in the gospel reading. "When Jesus got there, he ran across Philip and said, 'Come, follow me.'" (John 1:43) Then Jesus invites Nathanael to trust him with his life; "You've become a believer simply</p>	<p>to become like him, to take on his qualities, to grow to maturity in him. We're his disciples, and that's what a disciple does, they seek to become like their master, and Jesus is our master. I'm not interested in debating theories about morality. I'm not</p>	<p>I want to follow Jesus, and that includes my sexuality. Corinth was a sexual basket case. Anything went. How were these new Christians to live? Paul quite clearly calls them to follow Jesus' lead and not the lead of the community around them.</p>	<p>division, and I'll interpret things along the lines of what favours me. This is one of the devil's subtle traps where he sucks us in and we end up worshipping a theory, and Jesus is left out in the cold. I want to follow Jesus and not debate theories. The question isn't</p>	<p>So what does Jesus say about sexuality? Jesus says; "You have heart that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery (that's sex outside of marriage).' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman (or man) lustfully has already committed adultery</p>	<p>Jesus and not emulate porn. So it's a lie that you can look but don't touch. Jesus says in response to a question about divorce; "Haven't you read that at the beginning the Creator, 'made them male and female', and said, 'For this reason a man will</p>
<p>because I say I saw you one day sitting under the fig tree? You haven't seen anything yet! Before this is over you're going to see heaven open and God's angels descending to the Son of Man and ascending again." (John 1:51) Jesus is saying trust me, I'm the way to God. Trust me!</p>	<p>I'm not interested in debating theories. interested in being labelled moral and labelling others immoral slags. My goal is to follow Jesus faithfully as his disciple. To sink or swim with him. I'm not wasting my time in</p>	<p>Some things don't change. Our society is a sexual basket case where almost anything goes. Except chastity, and virginity. Pornography abounds, how are we as Christians to live? Paul quite clearly calls us also to follow Jesus' lead and not the lead of the community around us.</p>	<p>does it hurt someone or not, but do you trust Jesus enough to follow, trust him with your life, with your sexuality. We're called to trust Jesus with our lives, risking life on his call. I want to grow to be like Samuel who when he heard the LORD'S call was taught to say; "Yes, your servant is listening." (1 Sam. 3:10) I want to grow to ever greater maturity in listening to Jesus as his faithful disciple, because I trust him with my life.</p>	<p>What does Jesus say? with her in his heart." (Matt. 5:27) That rules out all forms of pornography, and we live in a society which is saturated with pornographic images. Jesus doesn't want us to pollute our minds but to transform them to be like him. Daily pray for Jesus to keep you alert so you reject all forms of porn and daily fill your heart and mind with his thoughts and passions. Then you'll act like</p>	<p>leave his father and mother and be united with his wife (that's a female), and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." (Matt. 19:4-6) So our sexuality is good, even God created. But as lost people on our own we'll never be able to discover the joys God intended. In Jesus we have his wisdom and power to grow and discover the joys of sexuality, as we trust him.</p>
<p>When someone says to you; 'Trust me', what goes through your head? Christianity is the act of trusting Jesus with our lives as we follow him as his disciple. Our goal is Jesus. To follow him,</p>	<p>want to know Jesus just as he knows me. I want to grow in this wonderful personal relationship that he has created for us to enjoy, to live, to discover, to celebrate with him.</p>	<p>Have you noticed we're not called to follow the theory that it's alright to do something so long as it doesn't hurt someone? Then I'll debate with you if something hurts or not. Then we'll have</p>			