

we want is abusive; definitely not loving.

So John writes; “If anyone boasts, ‘I love God,’ and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar.” (1 John 4:20) Here the giving and receiving has broken down. It isn’t flowing through me to those around me. My action tells me that there is something wrong with me, for I’m not living true to who I am in Jesus, I’m not living true to my new nature of love. So instead of boasting I need to be open and honest with God and say sorry; admitting to him my deep need for his healing of my

heart. And each time we come to our Father in Jesus’ name, he reaches out in his forgiving grace that we might reach ever deeper maturity in loving him.

Taking what I want from God isn’t the same as receiving his love. For in the receiving comes a burning desire to give, to live true to who we are in Jesus; the Father’s children, whom he loves and delights in
“My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God” (1 John 4:7).

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for loving us. Yes we do what to follow you, giving you our heart and soul. Yes we do what your love to be at home in us. We want you to have the run of the house, so that your love might be at home and grow to ever greater maturity in us. Jesus reveal where we haven’t been loving and heal us. Reveal where we have been loving that we might continue to be true to who we are in you.
Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus’ disciples multiplying disciples

6 May 2012

LOVE IS ACTION

1 John 4:7-21



As we continue our discovery of love through John’s letter I’m reminded that love is given expression through action. So the interview question for today is asking about experiences of love, memories of love.

(Short clip: What memories do you have?)

What are Jesus’ memories of love? Interestingly Jesus’ memories of love have to do with a cross, have to do with committed action, have to do with sacrifice as we heard last week. Jesus’ love wasn’t an impulsive action; but one he’d been working on for all eternity. He’d

invested his heart and soul knowing the risk he was taking. Jesus’ greatest act of love was to come in person, and then die in person, so that we could know the real person, heart and soul.

John expressed it this way; “This is the kind of love we are talking about – not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they’ve done to our relationship with God.” (1 John 4:9,10)

Jesus certainly has some vivid memories of love. But we know it doesn’t stop there. These actions, these

memories we have of Jesus’ love for us remind us that it is the same person loving us today. Jesus hasn’t changed; he’s as much in love with us today as he was then.

These are not memories of love lost, but of a loving relationship we now live in, that we are now building experiences as we actively live out this wonderful loving relationship. It’s a present thing not a done thing.

So John urges us; “My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other.” (1 John 4:11) Because

love isn't a commodity we store, but it is giving express to who we are.

Why does God seek to love? Quite simply because that is he who is; "God is love." (1 John 4:8,16) And God chooses to remain true to himself, so no matter the situation he loves; he risks sacrificing himself for our good.

Unfortunately his love isn't always accepted, but quite often rejected.

For love to grow and flourish two important acts need to happen; love needs to be given, and love needs to be received. Obviously if love isn't given the whole relationship crumbles.

If God had chosen to protect himself from rejection, from crucifixion, he could have stayed hidden, he could have stayed behind the curtain and remained mysterious, unknowable. Have you ever noticed that if people don't open

What are your memories of love?

up and reveal something of themselves you can't love them, or you have a difficult time loving them?

I can relate to this because I don't only have memories of love, I also have memories of hurt. And hurt has taught me to cover up, to not reveal myself. The promise being I won't get hurt again. So at school after having

people laugh at me because I couldn't spell I wouldn't let anyone read what I wrote, in fact I was reluctant to write for fear of ridicule.

Did you notice that John made this wonderful comment on fear; "There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear." (1 John 4:18)

Jesus love for us grows us to ever greater maturity, that we take the risk to love and not to let life's fears shape or control us. Hiding so you won't get hurt again is a lie. It promises security, but it leaves you dead. There is no life, no joy, no love in hiding. Adam and Eve chose to hide. Just imagine if God had played their game and left

them hiding in the bushes, hiding from each other, hiding from the reality of their sin. They would have just dug the hole deeper.

Thank God he came looking for us, for you. The memories Jesus has left remind me that he is looking for me, because I matter to him. Jesus' love sees him risking life and limb as he goes into the wrong side of town searching for us, for you, so that you might know you are loved and precious to him.

Jesus comes giving himself for us. Risking life and limb to be open and honest with us, revealing his heart and soul. Jesus comes and calls us to follow him, to trust him, to love him.

What's been my response?

For love to be complete there needs to be giving and receiving. So John writes; "We though, are going to love – love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He

What are Jesus memories of love?

loved us first." (1 John 4:19)

This is the pattern of our new life in Jesus. He gives and we receive, so that we can give that other people might receive, and repeat the pattern. Love flourishes where there is giving and receiving. Where I receive from Jesus and then give the same love that others

might receive and give.

I like the way the Message paraphrase expresses this; "This way, love has run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us..." (1 John 4:17) We grow to maturity as we let the new nature we have in Jesus be at home in us. It's who we are; and our life is now a living expression of who we are in Jesus.

Risking to give that others might receive, because in Jesus we are receiving so much.

So John rightly reminds us that love isn't simply about getting from God and then going of and doing whatever we want. That's not receiving, but using. And any relationship where we simply use each other to get what