

with him. I'll be living secure, accepted, valued, wanted and with purpose.

Actually in Jesus that is our reality today. In Jesus we are secure in the Father's love. In Jesus we are forgiven; so we are secure. In Jesus we are accepted as the Father's children. We are valued, he loves us more than his own life. In Jesus, we are wanted; he delights in sharing his life with us. In Jesus we have purpose, we're not just filling in time from the cradle to the grave. In Jesus we're living a life that can change lives, making an eternal difference.

As we go in Jesus' name, making disciples; baptising and

teaching them all he has taught, we're joining Jesus in saving the world.

Does the world need saving? If we all loved each other perfectly, then no. Do we all love each other perfectly? No. Thank God for Jesus, in him we are loved perfectly and perfect love drives out fear, so we can live from who we are in Jesus.

Thank God that love isn't only necessary for life, but in Jesus we are loved. Loved beyond our wildest dreams. And the best is yet to come. Daily, in Jesus, don't live from a sense of need, but live loved, loved by Jesus. Live true to who you are in

Jesus, and change the world, person by person. Loving people with the same love Jesus has, growing his disciples, person by person.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

20 May 2012

IS LOVE NECESSARY

1 John 5:9-13



Today we conclude our look at the first letter of John. The interview question for this week is; can we do without love? Is love necessary?

(Short clip: Is love necessary – 2:53min)

I think if we went and asked all the people we know whether love was necessary for a happy, full life the answer would be a unanimous, yes. Take love out of life and what does it become?

We all need love to flourish and grow to be healthy, mature people. We all need love to enjoy life, to celebrate life, to overcome the pains we each face. Without a shadow of doubt every person needs love.

Isn't it interesting that we all know it, but the reality of the world is very different. We all know that we need love, but often the opposite is what we see lived out. Do you notice that we, the human race, have a problem?

Love isn't like a commodity that can be brought or sold. It can't be stored in jars for a rainy day. I can't carry it around in my wallet, even though there's plenty of space. We all know that love is essential but how do you get it, let alone keep it? And I know I can't give what I don't have.

John certainly emphasises through his letter that in Jesus we are loved. "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down

his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for one another." (1 John 3:16) "We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:18)

This reminds me that love isn't simply some nice feeling. Of course love has to do with our emotions, but it is far more than a nice feeling. In Jesus we see that love involves sacrifice; personally. In Jesus we are loved personally at the expense of Jesus' life.

And then John reminds me that for this love to grow to maturity it needs to be shared as we love other people, as we have been loved. That involves going in person, and personally giving myself for the other persons benefit at my expense.

Everyone on the face of the earth would agree that we all need love, yet the reality around us can have a very ugly face. My need to be loved can simply make me desperate, willing to do whatever to be accepted. Approaching life as a needy person means I become a consumer of people. And once people have been turned into a commodity to be consumed love quickly evaporates. Humanity we have a problem.

Today John reminds us that Jesus has come that we might have eternal life; "My purpose in writing is simply this: that you who believe in God's Son will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you have eternal life, the reality and not the illusion." (1 John 5:13)

Eternal life is Jesus saving us from being in desperate need of love, to being the Father's children, whom he

loves and delights in. How do we know this beyond a shadow of doubt? Because in your baptism you were linked with Jesus, so everything the Father said at Jesus baptism he says through your baptism.

Let me refresh your memory about the

Desperate

events at Jesus baptism. "The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God's Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life." (Matt 3:13, Mk 1:11, Lk 3:22)

Because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection there is no shadow of

doubt that the price has been paid that we might be forgiven and re-birthed into a wonderful new relationship with God, now our Heavenly Father, lived out in his love, knowing he delights in sharing his life with his children.

In Jesus you're not desperate for love; you are loved.

In Jesus you're no longer left empty seeking acceptance; you have the Holy

Spirit, God in person living with you each day. God delighting in sharing his life with you.

In Jesus you're not aimlessly wondering through life but in him you have purpose and direction. You have a mission and in Jesus you are empowered to live out that mission. You are empowered to love as you are loved, to declare to other people, in person, that Jesus has won

forgiveness for them and also wants them to discover life lived from the fullness of his loving presence. We have the wonderful calling to go and save people's lives as we love them as we are loved. As we introduce Jesus to them that they too might be reborn into his kingdom and begin living life, life in all the fullness of God's love for them. Living life as the Father's loved children in whom he delights.

Have you noticed that 'eternal life' isn't simply, not dying? Every person is going to live forever, but not everyone will have eternal life, some will be living an eternal death!

If I'm left outside of God's love in Jesus what do I have? A desperate need to be accepted, to be wanted and valued. A desperate need to be loved for

who I am, without knowing who I am or why I even exist. Outside of God's love in Jesus what do people have? Unmet needs, unmet desires, which leave them feeling insecure, fearful of rejection, feeling that their life is pointless. Feeling they need to grab what they can

Loved in Jesus

before it's too late. But the more I grab the less love I have. We've never lived in bigger homes with more money to blow on what we want, but are we all happy, or has greed and fear taken over.

Life without love is my definition of hell. I've felt the pain in this life and that's enough for me. I'm glad that Jesus has offered us himself; a love that will never let us down or reject us, because Jesus will

never abandon us. I don't have a feeling I have a person.

Have you noticed that the world isn't coming to an end but to a person! To Jesus, the one who loves you in person at the expense of his life. There's no way he's going to change his mind after the cross.

Before the cross he had the wrestle in the garden, and stuck with the Father in giving his life that we might have eternal life.

Life lived to the full in his fullness.

Have you noticed that the bible actually says little about heaven except that we'll be living in God's presence? Celebrating life with him. Enjoy life with him, with all the barriers removed so that we can live in that wonderful love he has and live out that wonderful love to each other, because we are secure in the loving relationship we have