

share. We don't have a power to share. We have a personal relationship with the God of the universe to live, through Jesus in the Holy Spirit.

That's why when Jesus taught his disciples to pray he began with what words? 'Our Father'. We have a wonderful relationship of incredible love to live, to enjoy, to share. We like Paul have a person to introduce who changes the world because of who he is.

I love the fact that in Jesus we're not given a definition of love, we're loved, because that's who Jesus is.

Let us Pray.  
Jesus daily flood our heart and soul with the Holy Spirit so we grow ever deeper in knowing your love for us. We want our whole life to be a living expression of the love you have for us. Grant us the wisdom to know how to show your love to those we live with this week. Give us the courage to introduce you to someone new this week that they too might be changed and begin living eternity this week in your loving embrace feeling your breath on their life.  
Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

7 October 2012

## THE APOSTLES' TEACHINGS

### E100



This week as I read the E100 passages I felt Jesus highlighted the word; Love. We began the week with that great reading on love from Paul where he stressing that without love we have totally missed the point, even if we have faith that can move a mountain.

Now if I saw someone tell a mountain to move and it did move, I'd be totally impressed and figure they had it all together. But no! Paul reminds me that having power isn't the goal of life, a relationship of love is.

Then I read this definition of the word Paul used that we translate love. "Love (God's love) in the Greek = *agape* and means to love dearly, a giving love that shows compassion for others'

need." How does this sound to you so far; too emotional or not emotional enough?

"It has the power to change that which cannot be changed. It is a miraculous

intervention into the lives of people by God. The Greek word *agape* that Jesus used may

have originated in the Hebrew word *agab* (aw-gab'), a primitive root; meaning to breathe after, that is, to love sensually or dote, also to breathe against, as during an intimate kiss of passion, mouth to mouth, as when God breathed into man the breath of life and man became a living soul, Gen. 2:7. Jesus also breathed on his disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).

We were created in intimacy, lost it, but

have been restored to intimacy through Jesus sacrifice. Intimacy requires honour, obedience and sacrifice." (Neil Gamble – Father's Hand Ministries)

Is this saying that if I don't have intimacy with God, I've missed the point?

The word love involves passion. It involves the total giving of yourself. In Jesus I witness great passion. Jesus death on the cross wasn't simply some cool calculated act of the will. Jesus death on the cross was an act of great passion. Here I see great personal involvement, great personal risk, great intimacy as God lets us see into his heart.

So the second reading for this week had that

powerful phrase; “For Christ’s love compels us/me.” (2 Cor. 5:14) Paul’s life wasn’t a cool calculated act of the will, but a passionate act of love. The love of God in Jesus had changed Paul so that he now lived passionately, pouring his whole being into this relationship.

Do you notice Paul doesn’t introduce people to a new teaching for them to assess. Paul introduced people to the Jesus who encountered him on the road to Damascus. Jesus is alive! What drives Paul isn’t a teaching but an intimate relationship. What drives Paul is that he knows in his heart and soul the love of God for him in Jesus. So Paul introduced people to a person. A person who loves them and has revealed their heart and soul that they might live in an intimate relationship together.

That’s why in James we read the word, ‘do’ so often. Love involves action. That’s its very nature. If you love someone you act. Love is action. Love is a verb, an action word. Love isn’t a noun, simply giving a name to something.

I know what people

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### Love is?

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love by their action. Today I know who the rev-heads are because they’ll be camped in front of a TV watching Bathurst. Their passion is revealed by their action. Jesus’ passion is to build an intimate relationship with us and his Father. So he reveals the heart and soul of God to us, so we can come up close and personal. Jesus didn’t come and give a lecture on right and

wrong. Jesus didn’t debate for three years about the finer points of theology. Jesus comes to love us to life. Jesus gives his life that we might have life. Life as the Father’s children, whom he loves and delights in.

So we read from Peter; “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

This is now my new identity in Jesus. I don’t get letters after my name because I’ve passed a course and written some paper. In Jesus my identity is created. Now this new identity, as I live it out brings praise to my Heavenly Father. I don’t win praise for a well written doctoral thesis. My Heavenly Father who has poured

out his heart and soul to win me, this person, receive praise. I now have all eternity to sing the praises of his love for me. His love which took personal form in the person Jesus. This love which was prepared to lose everything, which was prepared to die for me.

It is this person with whom I now have an intimate relationship of love.

The definition of love that I began with had that very intimate image of a kiss, of feeling the breathe of the other person in that loving embrace. How close, how personal, how intimate does God want to share his life with you, with us?

That’s why Jesus spent so much time in prayer. Not because he had a great list of things that his Father needed to do, but because he loved being in his Father’s presence. He loved

sharing with his Father from his heart and soul. What a close intimate relationship we see lived out.

And so we finished the week hearing about the beauty of the love that God has for us in Jesus. “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life

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### Love is = Jesus

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for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for one another... This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins... We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 3:16; 4:9,19)

What do the Apostle’s teach us? Ten steps to

happiness and a contented life. How to be successful and prosperous. What do the Apostle’s teach us?

Quite simply they introduce us to Jesus and show us how to live up close and personal with this guy. The Apostle’s introduce me to a person who loves me, who is passionate about me, who wants to share his life with me.

How does that make you feel? Scared, excited, unsure. Emotions can be unsettling. Allowing yourself to be vulnerable, letting someone see into you, seeking intimacy, can be intimidating. How do you feel about being in such a close and personal relationship? I know Jesus is excited about it. I know that he has sent the Holy Spirit so we can live this relationship now. We don’t have a teaching to