

he's said so, and Jesus is the WORD.

Sin is the condition of existing not knowing you're loved, worthwhile, wanted, and spending your life trying to win this love, worth and approval. Outside of Jesus you'll always come up empty. That's the horror of sin; knowing love is essential, striving to gain it in our own power, but coming up empty.

In Jesus we know we are loved, for Father has declared us his child. In Jesus we know we are accepted, wanted, valued, for Jesus has given his life for us on the cross. Not might but has, so that in Jesus this is our new reality. In Jesus we don't come up empty, but we grow into him, we grow to be true to this wonderful new

nature we have. We don't come up empty but embraced by our loving Father, living loved for no other reason than that's who we are, that who you are.

Sin is horrific; not knowing your worth, not feeling loved, death robbing hope, age stealing your abilities, other people's insecurities destroying you. Sin is horrific. If it was only the bad things we do, then all we'd have to do is not do them. But it is so, so, much more insidious and destructive.

In Jesus, you now live a new life. In Jesus, you are a new creation. In Jesus you are Father's favoured child, whom he loves and delights to live with. In Jesus, you are invited to feast at

Father's table and rejoice in life together.

It's not about the 'good things', however you what to define that. It is about the new life we have to live. It is about living true to who we are; for Father has declared you, in Jesus, his child, and that is what you are.

This week spend time with Jesus, with Father, inviting the Spirit in. This week spend time feasting on Father's love in Jesus, and then invite the Spirit to lead you into live true to who you are.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

15 April 2018

YOU ARE—NO—MIGHT BE

1 John 3:1-7



Two verses caught my attention from this reading. In verse one John declares; "See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what you are!" (1 Jn 3:1 NLT)

What a beautiful word from God. It isn't, if you do this or that, you might become my child. What did God say to us through these words?

By the way, does God lie?

Of course not, Jesus is the truth, so every word out of his mouth is truth, for he can never, ever, act contrary to his nature. He always speaks what he means. He always speaks words you can trust, for he always backs up what he says with his life. Jesus is truth.

So what did God say to us through these words? This wonderful truth; in Jesus you ARE, not might be, but ARE, right now, Father's loved child, because he's called us his children. And whatever Father says he creates. That's also part of his nature.

So in Jesus what are you? Or better who are you?

In Jesus, Father has declared you his child, so that is what, that is who you are. You now have the wonderful joy, privilege, freedom to begin living true to who you are. In Jesus, you ARE Father's child. What a beautiful truth.

So that means we have a special relationship of love that we live in with Father. We're not strangers, we're loving

Father and loved child. We're not trying to earn something we don't have for we're loving Father and loved child. That is who we are, and Jesus has flooded us with the Spirit so that we have God's presence with us 24/7, so that in his power and authority we can live true to who we are.

As I've said before; you can't live true to who you are if you don't know who you are. You'll live trying to prove your worth, trying to gain approval, you'll be a slave to what you believe you deserve. But it won't be living loved, living loved children of a loving heavenly Father.

We don't live to prove ourselves, rather we grow and mature in this most precious,

loving relationship. I'd much rather be growing as Father's loved child, than always feeling that I have to prove myself, that I have to fight to get what I feel I deserve.	and manipulated into the happenings of existence. So I love this first verse: 'Father called us his children, and that is what we ARE!'	replaced by a condition based on your performance. Does anyone detect a problem here? What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word 'Sin'?
Thank God he came in person, Jesus, so that you and I could be re-created as Father's loved children, and begin living true to who we are now, with that wonderful hope and expectation of discovering the fullness of this identity when Jesus returns, and we're face to face with him. Face to face with Jesus, living face to face with our loving heavenly Father.	The other section that caught my attention was this; "Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is	I'd be confident that if I asked the average person outside the church what sin meant they would point to people's bad actions. So I've had a guy tell me that God would like him because
	In Jesus, you ARE, Father's loved child.	
	contrary to the law of God. And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, there is no sin in him. Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is." (1 Jn 3:4-6)	he was a good guy. And he was. I enjoyed his company. He was incredibly generous. He became a lawyer representing the poor and other good causes.
What a wonderful life Jesus wants for us to live and grow into. What freedom, for things don't determine who I am. Mistakes don't determine who I am; in Jesus, God does. And as I live true to who I am in Jesus I begin to shape the world around me and not be mashed	If I was to read this section on it's own with the idea that sin is the bad things we do, I'd be totally contradicting all that I've just said. Gone is the declaration being	So if sin was the bad things you did, you'd say most of his life wasn't sin? What is meant by this word 'sin'? If you steal you're a sinner, which would mean if you don't steal you're not a sinner. Of course you'd have to

define stealing. Is me having a coffee in the office each morning and not paying for it stealing? I'm taking something that isn't mine, that I haven't paid for, so why wouldn't that be classified as stealing?	So they earnestly sought to do this, only they had to define work. Was walking a kilometre work, or was it only work if you were carrying a load. If you carried a load of 5 kilograms was that Ok, but was 20 kilograms working? Your body would have had to work harder.	Is this why we have the Ten Commandments, so that we can prove to God that we have done the right thing? That was the definition of sin that the Pharisees had. How well did that work for them, according to Jesus?
Now you can see how the Pharisees of Jesus' day got themselves all tied up in knots. They re-classified sin as the bad things we do, using the Ten Commandments as the measuring rod for what is good.	You ARE Father's favoured child—believe it?	What was verse one again; 'you ARE Father's children'. The Father has said it, and through baptism he's give
That almost sound right!	By the way, why did God give the Ten Commandments?	us an outward sign for us to hand on to. For in baptism you were united with Jesus, so Father declared you to be his child, whom he loves and delights in. That's who you are. That's the relationship you now get to live in and enjoy. That's the guy who is drawing you closer and closer to his heart. A bit at a time because we probably can only cope with a bit at a time.
Just one problem, which Jesus highlighted in the way he dealt with their Sabbath rules. These men were earnest. Have you ever noticed that being earnest doesn't make you right? These men didn't want to sin, they didn't want to break the law, and the law said don't work on the Sabbath.	For many years I would have said they were given so that I could be good, so that I could do the right thing. I don't want to offend God. I don't want to sin, so I'd seek to obey the Ten Commandments. The truth be known I'd often massage the Ten Commandments to fit what I wanted to do.	You ARE Father's loved child, because