

Actually in Jesus, Robert's identity hasn't changed. Death doesn't win. In Jesus, Robert today, right now, is the heavenly Father's child, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life. And in Jesus Robert's identity even today finds the opportunity to give expression to who he is.

Death doesn't define Robert. Robert has placed his life in Jesus' hands, knowing he will return to raise him to new life, that together they may live loved by Father, going for it.

I'm sure Robert right now is planning with Jesus how together they might give living expression to the love their heavenly Father has for them.

Robert always seemed to be coming up with some new

idea, some new hobby, some new way of doing things, for in Jesus the happenings of life didn't define Robert, and they still don't.

Robert's identity, worth and purpose in Jesus, as Father's loved child who he seeks to share his life with will shape the happenings of life. In Jesus, through his love, we can join Robert in changing the world; to a place where loved people love. The loved, precious, children of Father, daily give living expression to who they are. What a world Jesus is seeking to grow through us.

I invite you, in Jesus, this week, to go and live loved, changing the world, for in Jesus you are loved. Claim your identity. Live your purpose. Let your worth as Father's loved children find living expression in all you do.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

13 November 2017

ROBERT EDWIN ECKERMANN

19 September 1931—2 November 2017



The readings for today remind me of some simple truths, truths that shaped not only Robert's life but also his character. These truths Robert not only lived by but as a Sunday School teacher he also actively taught them.

In the reading from the gospel by John we heard that Jesus came to; 'save the world'. Jesus has come to save the world. That indicates something is wrong, there is something to be saved from.

It is good to notice that Jesus doesn't give his life that we might be saved from people. Good News, Jesus has come to save people; they are the focus of his life. Jesus loves people.

The dilemma is that people have been tricked into seeing

God as the enemy. People have been deceived into believing that God is angry and wants to destroy them in some way, or harm them, or is just some judge out to punish us.

That's not God's true nature at all. In Jesus we get to see God's true character, and the word John uses to describe God's character is; love. The sort of love that would be prepared to give its life for those loved. The sort of love that would go to the ends of the world, no, the ends of the universe, in pursuit of the one he loves.

Jesus literally came to earth and gave his life in pursuit of those he loves, in pursuit of you.

Jesus comes to build a heart-to-heart relationship with us, with you. Jesus comes

that we might be sharing life with God now, looking forward to a bright new future when Jesus returns to fulfil all his promises.

Jesus has come giving his life that we might be forgiven; that means anything that could blind us to God's true nature has been dealt with in Jesus. Jesus forgives, heals, releases those captive; captive to guilt, regret, lost opportunity, fear.

The word we use to encapsulate all this and more is; sin. Sin distorts our true identity. Sin has left us all feeling alien to God, wondering if we are loved or indeed love able, striving to win approval, to gain acceptance so we can feel worthwhile.

But feeling approved, accepted, worthwhile is elusive; for I've

discovered the moment I think I've arrived, it evaporates and I'm left having to do it all again.

The Good News is Jesus has come to save us, by loving us, by giving himself for us, that we might come to know who he really is and wonderfully in the same moment come to know who we really are.

So John wrote in his letter; "This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." (1 John 4:10)

Another thing I've discovered in life is people who aren't loved, don't know how to love. We need it. We want it. But left to ourselves we don't have it. In fact if a person tries to love themselves, from their own self-focused desires, you end up with a person who is spoilt!

Selfishness is one of the greatest killers of people. Another is trying to beat people into submission, for I've also noticed that hurt people, hurt people.

How do I discover true love? Who wants to be loved; loved simply for who they are not what they have to offer. Loved and not spoiled.

Live Loved

Thank God, he's come in person, to love us. God comes in the person of Jesus, so that we can know person-to-person his love for us. God doesn't stay remote or alien to us, rather he comes up close and personal, into our human history, one of us; literally our brother.

This is love in action. God can act no other way, for it is his nature we experience; for God is love. It's who he is, and when he

created us that was also his goal for us, that in and through him our very nature would be his love. So when we acted true to our nature, just like God, we'd love, because that's who we were.

Sin distorted that. Sin robbed us of our true identity. Sin destroyed the security we have in God. Sin kills our feelings of acceptance and being wanted simply for who we are, no strings attached.

To some degree I believe that this loving nature of God is the sort of love I saw lived out by Robert to his wife Monica. Like God, Robert loved from the core of his being, because he knew he was loved. And so he gave himself away, no strings attached. It wasn't, 'what's in it for me', but Robert knew his heavenly Father's love and so had love to give.

A source of love that doesn't run out. Our heavenly Father's love

for his children never runs out; it is his eternal passion.

In Jesus, Robert had been recreated, so that he had a new nature. The very nature of Jesus himself. That is the wonderful mystery and hope of Jesus, that he is able to recreate us in his image. So that we learn to love from the heart of who we are.

And in Jesus, you are the heavenly Father's loved child, in whom he delights. Whom he desires to walk daily with, sharing all the riches of life with his loved children. In Jesus that is who you are; Father's child, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life.

Those were the very words the heavenly Father spoke over Robert at his baptism. And it was in this relationship that Robert sought to live.

At the same time Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in, with,

through Robert. He wasn't left to simply do the best he could, but as he walked with the Spirit, Robert was able to mature and start becoming the best Jesus knows how.

Jesus' passion is that we grow and mature becoming all that he has dreamed possible. All that he gave his life for us to become;

In Jesus you are loved

loved child, who could live loved, for that's who we are.

In the gospel recorded by John we heard; 'everyone who believes in Jesus will not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16)

'Believes' that means taking Jesus at his word, trusting your life that what he says he means and has the power and authority to do. 'Believes' means taking Jesus at his word, trusting his love

for you, then going for it.

Actually that's life; in Jesus knowing God loves you, taking him at his word and then together going for it.

The Robert I knew, knew Jesus personally, and knew he was loved by Jesus personally. The Robert I knew took Jesus at his word, trusted Jesus' love for him, and then went for it. Together with Jesus he embraced life in all its ups and downs.

I'm sure Robert's pray for us today would be that we too open our hearts to Jesus. Invite him in, asking that we know his love for us deep in our souls, so that we too might live loved. That we too might discover our worth and purpose in Jesus love. That we too might know who we are in Jesus, discovering our identity in him, so that our lives might be the opportunity to give living expression to who we are in Jesus.