

I'm not sure what they meant by that. But God's love is conditional. It is conditional on knowing the real person behind all the guesses.

Otherwise what sort of relationship do you have; if it is just guesses? Would this be the sort of relationship you'd commit yourself to, without reserve? Or would you want to get to know the person first?

Good News, Jesus comes in person, so you can get to know him personally. Then you can share a person to person relationship with him, being involved in his life, sharing his love, being treasured by Father as his loved child. Good News, Jesus love is personal, intimate and real.

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for revealing your heart and soul to us. We invite you to send the Spirit that we might know you for who you are. Jesus we want to know you intimately, sharing with you from our heart and soul, risking being real with you. Jesus grow me in knowing you personally, that we share life person to person; being real with each other. I know I can trust you. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

13 April 2017

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS?

Maundy Thursday



Over the season of lent we looked at the theme; 'What kind of love is this?'

What's the first thought that comes to your mind when you think of Jesus' love?

The first thought I get is that Jesus' love is personal. Jesus has come in person to love me, to love you, personally.

Like God in Jesus has walked up to humanity and said; 'G'day, I'm Jesus.'

If I walked up to a complete stranger and said; 'G'day, I'm Tim, what do you know about me?' What do think their response would be?

If a complete stranger came up and asked me what I knew about them, my first thought would be, not a lot, but

you seem strange! Though I like your Hawaiian shirt.

Jesus has come up and personally introduced himself. Because, obviously, I don't know a stranger. But once a person introduces themselves to me and starts telling me about themselves they move from being a stranger to being someone I know.

And the more time you spend together; sharing on deeper and deeper leaves, trust grows, a personal relationship develops. We get to know each other; know what makes the person tick. Know what gets under their skin. Know their passions, their hopes, their dreams.

But until someone introduces themselves to me and I listen to what they say, until this happens what do we remain? We remain

strangers. We remain uninvolved in each other's lives.

Why do you think God, came in the person Jesus? Because he wants to be involved in our lives, he wants us to be personally involved in his life. Jesus doesn't want to be a stranger to you, doesn't want you to be a stranger to him. Jesus' passion is that we get to know each other, to build a deep intimate loving relationship, where we share our hopes and dreams. Where we dare to reveal ourselves, to expose our deepest emotions. Where we discover the joys of a life shared. Life shared in all its ups and downs, in a personal relationship.

But until a person makes that move and comes in person, what can we know about them? Until we open up

and be part of that relationship how much would be share with that person?

Our human dilemma is that God is a stranger. We look around and make guesses as to what he might be like. Or we guess he doesn't matter. Life is simply what you make it. The human dilemma is that God is a stranger, and until he tells us about himself, that's the way it will stay.

But that's only part of our human dilemma, God isn't only a stranger, we in a sense are strangers to ourselves. That's shown by the questions we seek to find answers to, like; what is the purpose of my life, do I really matter, am I worthwhile, does anyone like me for who I am. Who am I?

The question can be asked in many different ways, but we're all seeking answers to the mystery we call life. And the answers we come up with on our own become our god's.

So many people believe that we just live and we die, so make the most of life while you have it. Live every minute to the max.

Do you notice that this statement is a creedal statement defining that person's religion; in other words defining what gives them a sense of worth, purpose and

Our human dilemma is that God is a stranger

acceptance? Have you noticed how humanity always comes up with a creed that defines them; which is what religion is. And in the process humanity seeks to define God; life is about me being happy, so God's number one role is to make sure I'm happy, because that's the goal of life.

Most people in Australia don't use the word religion or God, but when I look around me I see that everyone's got one. Everyone will tell me

what life is about and how to live it; that's religion. And they all have a goal; wealth, happiness, success, love; that's their God.

The dilemma is that guesses about a person can't bring you into a deep, personal relationship of love with them.

There is only one way for this to happen; they have to tell you about themselves, while you're listening.

And then you can share about yourself, while they are listening. Guessing and telling the other person what they have to think, and how they must act doesn't seem to work well at creating a deep intimate personal relationship of love.

And what kind of love is Jesus after? A deep personal, intimate relationship of love; of trust, of life shared together being open and honest, being vulnerable with each other. That is the kind of love Jesus has come

to live, has come to create, create in you, that together we might live out this wonderful personal relationship.

Do you notice that I don't determine who Jesus is; he reveals himself to me. He shows me who he is; I just need to listen. If Jesus tells me that he gets angry when the lives of those he loves is being damaged or destroyed by lies; then that's who he is. Jesus does get angry. Jesus does fight for those he loves. Jesus does hate lies. It's who he is; not my guess work.

And then, as I spend time with Jesus, an amazing thing happens in me. I don't only begin to know Jesus for who he is, I being to discover who I am, for who I really am. This relationship defines me; defines my values, my worth, my purpose. What a precious discovery, for without it I'm trying to navigate the oceans guessing I know where I am,

guessing I know where to go, but all the time having not reference points.

So Jesus comes that we might not be strangers; but that we get to know him, to know him for who he really is, warts and all.

Today we remember Jesus new command;

Hi, I'm Jesus, pleased to meet you.'

'Love one another – here comes the new part – as I have loved you.' (John 13:34)

Jesus has loved us personally. He's come in person and risked revealing his heart and soul to us, personally. Jesus has come up to each of us and said; 'Hi, I'm Jesus, pleased to meet you.'

Thank God, in Jesus, I move from guess work into a personal relationship of love. And in this amazing revelation I also get to

see myself, I get to know what love is, for I'm loved. It's not guess work. It's not a theory. I am loved.

Jesus reveals his heart and soul. Jesus risks revealing his deepest thoughts and emotions to me. He's not a stranger, but he is now the one my life revolves around. Jesus isn't a stranger but

wonderfully he becomes the one who defines me.

And out of this relationship I get to begin living. Living life true to who I am in Jesus; Father's loved child in whom he delights. In Jesus' love I now love; getting angry at those lies which destroy Father's precious children, being willing to fight for them, being willing to sacrifice myself for them, that they might live life in all God's fullness.

What sort of love is this?

Someone told me the other day that God's love us unconditional.