

breakout into the reality of who we are; loved children of Father God, whom he delights in.

In Jesus we can know for sure, that's who we are. So when thoughts come into your mind that you are a loser, rotten, selfish, not loved, not wanted, not worthwhile, we can see them for the lies that they are and take Jesus at his word, inviting the Spirit to grow us to be all that Jesus gave his life for us to be; Father's loved children.

Have you noticed that the 'Trinity' isn't a religious concept, but a reality we are invited to live in? The reality of Father, Son, Spirit whirling around as the loving relationship that they are, seeking to draw people into their very heart beat, that they too might live true to who they are; loved.

Loved by Father, Son, Spirit.

If 'Trinity' is only a concept, then we're just a club with rules to follow. And sadly we miss experiencing Father's love, through the Son's love, shared with us through the Spirit's loving presence. I thank God that I don't have a concept to believe but a relationship to enjoy, to live, to be.



Christ Church Lutheran

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

Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

11 June 2017

TRINITY

2 Corinthians 13:14



I like the blessing we have in the reading from 2 Corinthians; "The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." (2 Cor. 13:14 The Message)

As I read this I got the feeling of being invited into a relationship, of being invited to share life. I heard; 'Come, join us in this amazing relationship that we share'. I'm being invited to a life of friendship, where I'll get to discover the extravagant love of God, and Jesus is doing the inviting; 'Come, join us'.

Of course if this was just my idea, all it would be is wishful thinking. Who wouldn't want to be loved by God! I'd assume everyone. I think everyone I know what's

to be loved, to be valued, to have intimate friendship.

When I look at the world around me I see that many of people's hurts, fears, insecurities stem from feeling unloved, not wanted, always having to prove their worth. It is a hard world if you don't know you're loved, if you don't experience being loved.

That's why I believe God created the world. Not that we feel unloved in a big bad world, where we have to fight to survive, simply doing the best we can. That's definitely not why God created the world. I believe God created the world so that he might create his love in us. So that his love might be the very core of our being; not just knowing that we are loved but experiencing it, knowing in the core of

our being that we are loved, loved by God. And loved people, love.

What lies at the heart of that relationship we call 'Trinity'; Father, Son, Spirit? What lies at the heart of this relationship is love; deep affection for each other, total trust in each other, a heartfelt passion for each other, to the point where they sacrifice themselves for each other. What lies at the heart of this relationship we call 'Trinity' is love; real, authentic, passionate, personal love.

I hope you feel that I'm struggling to put into words the depth and beauty of this relationship we call 'Trinity'. The relationship of Father, Son, Spirit leaves our language grasping at the reality that we are invited to live in, to share in, to experience.

But that is God's passion, that we share in this most wonderful, intimate, personal, loving relationship. At least that is what Jesus says, here's one example: "Jesus replied, 'All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them... And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative – that is, the Holy Spirit – he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you." (John 14:23-26 NLT)

So today I'm reminded that Jesus hasn't sent us out to invite people to join his club. Jesus didn't send out his disciples to make club members; who know the rules and would attend regularly at club

meetings. The church is not a club; how far short of being embraced personally in God's love is that!

Jesus has called us to go and make disciples; that's mean's people like him. People who find their core being in a loving relationship with Father. People who find their identity

That's why I believe God created the world...

in living in a loving relationship with Father. Trusting him with their lives; their wallets, their language, their shopping their habits, the way they dress. Because at the heart of who we are, is a dynamic, personal, loving relationship.

That's why Jesus sent the person of the Holy Spirit to be with us. How else can you live a personal, loving relationship? If there is no person with you it can't be personal; but the Spirit is with us, for

Jesus has sent him. We have begun living embraced in that wonderful, intimate, personal relationship of love we call, 'Trinity'.

That's why God created us, that he might create his love in us. That he might embrace us in that wonderful loving, passionate, personal relationship that Father, Son, and Spirit are.

So in one sense I don't think God stopped creating on day seven. On day seven he had just set up the scene for

his greatest act of creation. Creating in us genuine, authentic, personal love as the Trinity share. And this love is created in the crucible of life, the wrestle of who to trust, the preparedness to risk everything; our life, our reputation, our joy, our hopes, our future.

Risking it all in the crucible of life, trusting Jesus, joining with him on the cross crying out; 'My God, my God why have you forsaken me' and then 'Father into your hands I commit your body'.

Here is where love is born; where love grows and becomes a living reality. Living in the reality of Father, Son, Spirit's love embracing us. We don't have a theory but a personal embrace; that relationship we call 'Trinity' personally embracing us in the love they exist in, the love that they are.

You know what, I don't think I've even scratched the surface of this loving relationship which Jesus has brought me into. And I'm excited to know more; I want to know more. More of who Jesus is, of who Father is, of who Spirit is, knowing them personally. Experiencing life with them personally, in their loving reality.

God created you that you might come to know him, to know his love for you, to have that love become part of your personal reality. But love doesn't grow where there is no trust.

So God put Adam and Eve in the garden, not as robots, but as people who had the capacity to experience his love for them. That's why he put the tree there and asked them not to touch it. In essence he was saying; 'Trust me'. That's why he let the devil tempt them. God was using the devil to grow love, inviting

'Trinity' what lies at the heart of this relationship?

Adam and Eve to trust him with their lives. So when Adam and Eve ate the fruit they opened the door to a wonderful new and deep way into living loved; loved by 'Trinity'. Loved in 'Trinity'.

It is easy to say you love someone when everything is going fine. When there isn't any challenge, when there aren't any waves, when nobody is rocking the boat and everything

is smiles and paradise. 'Sure I love you'.

But then things don't go according to plan; we lose money, or healthy, or job, or children, or respect. 'I'm not the strong independent person I was, do you still love me?' It is in the crucible of life that God grows his love in us; a deep, personal trust that risks everything, taking him at his word; for no other reason than he said it and I trust him.

Simply being part of a club and obeying a few rules could never create this depth of love that God, in Jesus, has set about making a reality for us all to enjoy, to live in, to be part of.

The amazing grace of our Master, Jesus Christ, opens the door for us into the extravagant love of God, that we might live there, be love. The intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit is with us now, walking us through our first birth steps as we begin to