

what he's doing.
Trust him!

Today I invite you to remove any veneer that the Spirit has made know to you this morning. Tear it down and throw it in the garbage where it belongs, and invite the Spirit to reveal the real you Father has created and is growing to maturity. Let's not exist under fear, having the devil rob us of life, the fullness of life which comes when we walk and talk openly and freely with our heavenly Dad, through our brother Jesus.

Your heavenly Dad knows what he's doing. In Jesus he invites you to trust him, because you know his love for you. You know his

passionate desire is to have your true nature as his child to flow from deep within you finding expression in all you say and do. What fullness of life we discover, when our lives are a living, breathing expression of our true nature as Father's children, whom he loves and delights in.

Let us pray.
Jesus we invite you to send the Spirit to expose the devil's lies which would hold us in slavery and fear. Expose those lies and replace them with the truth; the truth that you have given your life for us so that we

might live life up close and personal with God as our heavenly Dad. Thank you that in you that is the truth, and our mistakes don't make us who we are, but Jesus life, death and resurrection do. Lead us by the Spirit to like free and true to who we are in you. Father we praise you because you know what you are doing. We trust you. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

30 July 2017

GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING

Romans 8:26-39

This verse caught my attention; "God knew what he was doing from the very beginning." (Rom. 8:29 Message Paraphrase) I found it comforting, reassuring, great to read that phrase; 'God knew what he was doing'. What a beautiful phrase. This life I live isn't some meaningless mess. I'm not simply part of some random happenings. God knows what he's doing.

That thought; God knows what he's doing, is an invitation to trust him.

Then Paul spells out what God is doing; "He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life

of his Son." (Rom. 8:30 MP)

What does the life of God's Son; Jesus, look like?

It is a life that flows from a relationship of love, of trust, of affection with Father. Paul reminded his readers of this earlier; "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit, when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.'" (Rom. 9:15 New Living Translation)

I'm glad God didn't decide to simply control us but that he has sought to love us. God could have used fear to get us to do what he wants. Fear

can work well at getting people to do what you want. The fear of a speeding fine gets me to obey the speed limit. Fear can get people to obey and do what you want. But did you notice the word 'slave'. You become, 'fearful slaves', that's a long way off being a loved child.

In Jesus, God has adopted us as his children, that we now call him 'Dad'. What a wonderful relationship is sought to be described by this term. An intimate relationship. A relationship which flows from love and respect. A relationship of trust. Jesus isn't forced to obey his Father under threat of punishment. Jesus obeys his Father because he



trusts him, because there's nothing he'd rather be doing than sharing life intimately with his Dad.

I love knowing that God's goal isn't simply to get me to obey; to do as I'm told. Laws can tell you what to do, and they can tell you the consequences that will follow if you don't obey. This external force can make you behave. But it doesn't have the power to shape your soul.

Jesus comes to shape your soul; the very core of your being. Jesus' life is a living breathing intimate relationship with his Father. He's not a slave. He's not frightened. He walks with his Father in intimate conversation; doing and saying what he sees his Father doing and saying. You could say Jesus is a chip off the old block.

His nature reflects his family character; it flows from deep within him.

What a wonderful way to live; not fearful, but having your very character find expression as it flows into your life, from deep within you.

Jesus comes to shape your soul

What a precious gift we have in Jesus; we are re-created. Jesus breathes new life into our souls. Jesus breathes the Spirit into our souls. Now in Jesus we are able to mature and grow like him, being a chip off the old block. Our nature, in Jesus, reflects our family character; it flows from deep within us.

In Jesus we haven't plastered on some

nice veneer; we're real. In Jesus we don't just act nice to be known as nice; we live real. We live true to who we are, because, in Jesus, we know who we are. Jesus has breathed his breath of life into us; we have the Spirit.

If we were faking it, people could separate us from God's love. They could remove the nice veneer and expose me as a fraud. That's if all I'd done was build a nice veneer and had nothing change within me.

Adam and Eve tried the veneer approach; they sewed fig leaves together rather than be exposed. They jumped in the bushes rather than be exposed. How well did all that hiding and pretending work?

Jesus invites us to trust him, to trust that his sacrificial death

has opened the way into a healthy, loving, open, transparent, safe relationship with God as our Dad. Jesus invites us into a real, honest relationship. Fear doesn't shape us.

In Jesus the fear of being exposed is removed, for in Jesus the reality is, you are Father's child, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life.

In Jesus the aim isn't to put up false veneers of niceness, but to tear them down. In Jesus we have the wonderful opportunity to tear down those lies which rob us of the fullness of life. We tear them down so that we can rejoice in the reality of who we are in Jesus.

That's why Paul can say; "now there is no condemnation for those who belong to

Christ Jesus." (Rom. 8:1 NLT) In Jesus we are free to admit our mistakes without the fear of condemnation. For in Jesus, our mistakes don't define us, Jesus does.

In Jesus your mistakes, are just that, mistakes. They are part of the veneer

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that obscures the real you, so we can admit to them and tear them down, with the wonderful hope of discovering our true nature, of growing and maturing as Father's child.

Outside of Jesus my mistakes have me putting up more and more veneers to hide behind, to give the impression that I am a nice person, that I am worth knowing. But the more I hide,

the more I lose myself and the more distant God seems to be. The more I hide the more God becomes someone to be feared, because I don't want to be exposed. My fears turn God into someone I don't want to come close to because I'm lead to believe the lie that he will destroy me.

But that's not God's plan at all. He knows what

he's doing; he's seeking to remove all the rubbish that inhibits you from becoming your true self. His plan is to 'restore you to the original and intended shape of our lives.' (Rom. 8:29/30 MP) That shape is to be a chip off the old bloke; to be made in our Dad's image.

So today I invite you to rejoice, your heavenly Dad knows