

has created. I don't want to live the rebel life. I'm more than happy for Jesus to be king. I'm more than happy for Jesus to open the door, rather than try and bash it down by my own force, just after what I want, according to my very limited knowledge and power. I'm more than happy for Jesus to rule the roost.

What a beautiful truth, Jesus is daily inviting us to walk in and feel at home in; the doors wide open. Come on in and feel at home; for as Father's children you are. You are at home in his heart, in his

affection, it's the only place he wants you to be. To be growing into the amazing person he has dreamed possible, discovering the wonders of life that he has created to enjoy with you.

Let us pray.
Jesus, thank you for opening the door so that we can live with you on your terms, your terms of mercy. We invite you daily to send the Spirit so that we might live

daily in the affection of Father's heart, hearing your voice, walking intimately with you both, in all we say and do. Jesus, there is no other place I'd want to be than at home with you. Come in daily and fill my heart and mind with your loving presence, my door is always open to you. Amen.

20 August 2017

MERCY FOR ALL

Romans 11:29-32



The reading for today left us with this thought; "God makes sure that we all experience what it means to be outside so that he can personally open the door and welcome us back in." (Romans 11:32 Message Paraphrase)

Or as the New Living Translation puts it; "Now they are rebels, and God's mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God's mercy. For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so he could have mercy on everyone." (Romans 11:31,32 NLT)

What is Paul trying to tell us about ourselves and God?

The first picture; of the open door,

reminds me that I can't force my way into a healthy, loving, affectionate relationship with God.

How well does force work in creating relationships of love?

If you forced your way into my home, you wouldn't be my friend. I'd see you as an intruder, a thief!

God's not at all interested in us trying to force ourselves on him, either. But that's what a law based relationship does. The Israelites had taken God's gift of the Ten Commandments and were using them to force themselves on God.

Why did God give his children the Ten Commandments?

The Children of Israel were out in the wilderness, over a million strong. How were they going to live together as a society that reflected their God? How were they going to live together as a society that loved each other; that's reflecting God?

Notice the Ten Commandments are God's gift to his children to help them live together, providing an atmosphere where love can grow, rather than kill each other out of envy and greed.

So the Ten Commandments are still a good gift from God showing us how we can live together, providing an atmosphere where his

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

love can grow. The Ten Commandments don't grow love, they provide a safe environment where we can put God's love into action.	In the New Living Translation of this letter we had the word 'Rebel'. Bashing down my door, to get your way, is a good picture of a rebel.	out to get what we want, so that it will benefit me. We're all in life for what we can get out of it. We're all self-centred at birth.	anyone's door. Jesus doesn't live the rebel lifestyle; he doesn't ask what's in it for me before he acts.	doesn't live the rebel lifestyle.	placing his life into his Father's hands.
Unfortunately the Children of Israel ended up trying to use the Ten Commandments to bash down the door to God's home. And bashing down the door to someone's home won't ender you to them!	Does the way of a rebel create a loving environment?	Jesus exposes us all as rebels, but not to condemn us. Paul wrote; 'God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so he could have mercy on everyone.' (Rom. 11:32 NLT)	What motivates Jesus?	Jesus willingly allows himself to be executed on the cross as a rebel. Notice that Jesus replaces the rebel; Barabbas.	Jesus creates the ultimate; a true loving relationship for each of us to enjoy. For each of us to live in , to revel in, to grow and mature in. Knowing Father for who he really is, trusting him as the
	Does the way of a rebel create a loving environment?		Jesus internal driving force is his very nature of love; seeking what is best for the other person that they might benefit at his expense. At least that's what he's lived out. Jesus was born	Jesus internal driving force is...	ultimate source of life and love. Not rebelling but trusting him, seeking his kingdom come, that his will is
So God comes in the person of Jesus, opening the door to a personal, loving, affectionate relationship. God comes in Jesus removing our sin. That is removing our desire to bash down his door. Removing our desire to play equals with God telling him what he has to do, and how he has to do it, and he'd better do it now.	Does forcing my will on you get you in any way to want to spend time with me, let along get to know me better?	What Good News; God's plan in Jesus is to have mercy on us, on everyone. Jesus is the open door to God's heart. Jesus is the open door to a loving Father's heart. Jesus opens the way to live up close and personal with God, as Dad. Jesus opens the way to a conversational relationship, of love and affection with our heavenly Father.	your brother, that we might benefit, being adopted through him as Father's loved children in whom he delights.	things my way, to benefit me, because it's my right.	done.
	When you have two, or more, people living the rebel way in the same environment, what would you expect to find: Peace and harmony, or Conflict and resentment?		It cost Jesus, he left the wonders of heaven, to be born on the run, a refuge, growing up in some obscure town, manual labouring. Jesus came that we benefit according to our need and he gladly pays the price. Jesus	Jesus doesn't bash down our door, he rather takes the worst humanity can throw at him and gives back forgiveness, hope, love, life. Jesus dies that we benefit according to our needs and he pays with his life. Jesus dies, not a rebel, but the Son who trusts his Father, willingly	That's our new nature in Jesus. That's our passionate desire in Jesus; living loved, in a conversational relationship of affection with Dad; our heavenly Father. What a beautiful door Jesus has opened for us. I for one want to daily live in this wonderful relationship that Jesus
	Jesus exposes us all as rebels. We're all	Jesus doesn't use force to bash down			