

Good News, we have a personal relationship of love and affection with Father, through Jesus, which is lived out person to person with the Spirit. God's very presence with us. And when I'm sharing life with God, person to person, it's never a waste of time, but life itself.

Have you ever noticed that Father's picture of life is all about relationships? Have you ever noticed that you're the happiest when surrounded by family and friends where you are free to express your love and affection for

one another, bring open and honest sharing from the heart.

You know why that is? Because then you're living Father's picture. Father, Son and Spirit, that amazing relationship of love and affection has come and birthed us through baptism into their relationship. That's where life is lived to the full; were we discover and enjoy that rich and satisfying life that Jesus has created possible through his crucifixion and resurrection.

This week take time to ponder and enjoy this relationship. Maybe that's why Father gave us a Sabbath rest. He knows we get busy, and when I'm busy I miss what's most important, what's lasting for eternity. This week ponder anew this relationship with God that you are part of in Jesus, living out in the Spirit. Ponder anew that in Jesus, you're never the same. You're part of Father's picture.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

19 August 2018

NEVER THE SAME; YOU'RE PART OF FATHER'S PICTURE

Ephesians 5:15-20

This morning I invite you to look at the next jigsaw piece we have. Life at times can be like a jigsaw; we have all these pieces and aren't sure how they all fit together. At times life can feel that way.

I find with a jigsaw it is always helpful to have a picture of what the finished picture looks like. That certainly helps work out where the different pieces go. So what's the finished picture for your life look like?

Who knows what God's goal is for life? Who knows what their finished picture will look like?

I can't draw you a picture but I can give you a mental image, and that is growing to maturity in Christ. Becoming like Christ. That's our heavenly Father's finished

picture; you mature in Christ. You, having grown up into Jesus, so that he shapes you, your thoughts, your hopes, your dreams, the way you live, the way you talk, the way you walk.

The seed of our heavenly Father's picture was sown at your baptism, where you were baptised into Jesus. So on the back of the jigsaw piece you'll find these words; 'Never the same; you're part of Father's picture'.

Outside of Jesus there is a totally different picture that we are part of. A picture of confusion, competing ideas, working hard to prove ourselves, uncertainty; have I done enough, will people like me let alone love me. Outside of Jesus the picture we're

wrapped in is cold and heartless.

But we're not outside of Jesus. At your baptism Jesus claimed you as one of Father's loved children, in whom he delights. At your baptism the Holy Spirit came to live within you, to lead you, to guide you, so that you might grow to maturity in Jesus.

In Jesus you're never the same again. In Jesus you're not lost and alone. I hate feeling lost and alone. In Jesus you're never without hope. In Jesus your identity is secure; and the Spirit is growing you in this wonderful new identity you have in Jesus.

In Jesus you're part of Father's picture. And his picture is one of an intimate, loving relationship of complete affection, of complete

trust where we can risk being open and honest. Our heavenly Father's picture is one of life, a rich and satisfying life. A life where we share heart to heart with each other. In our Father's picture we're intimately interwoven with him and each other in Jesus.

One of the common images in the bible is that of the shepherd and his sheep. And the sheep know the shepherd's voice and follow him. In our heavenly Father's picture we're not wandering around aimlessly, simply doing the best we can, never knowing if we're on the right track or not.

We walk listening to Jesus. We live following his lead, walking as he does. We're never the same; we're part of Father's picture.

If it was up to me to make my own picture, I wouldn't know where to begin. How can you draw a picture of something you've never

seen? How can I aim for a goal I don't know? Outside of Jesus we're simply left guessing, and my guesses are built on what I've experienced, and there is just so, so much I've never experienced or known.

Left to put the pieces of my life together I end up with a jumbled

Thank God you're not left to yourself.

mess. Thank God you're not left to yourself. In your baptism you were united with Jesus. His Father is now your Father. You have received the Spirit.

So now I have the wonderful privilege of simply asking Jesus where and how to put the pieces of my life together, more and more seeing them as part of Father's wonderful picture of life and love. Father's wonderful picture of an inanimate, loving

relationship of affection. A shared life of trust, where I can be open and honest with Father, so that in him I discover myself.

Outside of Jesus I'll simply end up wasting my life. I might be busy, looking like I'm productive, looking like I'm living life, till death tests my work, and all that I'm left with is a dead end, a black hole. Outside of Jesus there is this dark cloud that casts its shadow over our existence, leaving us questioning everything.

Thank God, in Jesus, that's not the case. In Jesus that dark cloud is gone in the brilliance of his shining presence. I'm not left wondering, I'm invited to be asking. Asking Jesus, knowing he'll lead me. Knowing he knows Father's picture of life. Jesus knows my place in Father's picture.

Thank God I'm not trying to paint my own picture, in Jesus, I'm part of Father's picture.

In Jesus I'm part of Father, his loved child in whom he delights.

I've discovered that some people will try and get you to doubt that the Father has a picture. I've discovered some people will try and tear you down; you make mistakes so you must be a mistake. You don't meet their expectations so you must be a failure. You're not caring enough, you're too sympathetic, you're naïve, you're too full of yourself. Have you ever encountered this attempt at messing up Father's picture, of tearing it down so we're just left with shredded bits? Have you ever felt that way?

None of it is true; in Jesus your identity and purpose are living expressions of your heavenly Father. He's woven you into his picture and in him every piece finds the right place, as he puts together his picture. Thank God its not up to

me, I'm part of Father's picture of life.

So my life is never wasted when I'm walking and talking with Jesus; for he's putting all the pieces of my life into Father's glorious picture of life. In Jesus I don't end up amassing lifeless things, but I'm living the life Father created

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for me to share with him. And walking and talking with Father is never a waste of time; sharing life intimately with Father is never a waste of time; it's life itself.

Today I'm being reminded to never lose sight of who I really am in Jesus. In Baptism I've been adopted as Father's child, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life.

I'm never the same after that; I'm now a living, breathing part of

Father's picture. I'm now, in Jesus, through the Spirit, living in that wonderful intimate relationship of love and affection; being open and honest, growing to be all that Jesus has dreamed possible. Growing to maturity in him, and not being shaped by what happens to me or doesn't happen to me.

In Jesus I'm not a slave to circumstance, to other's opinions, to fate. In Jesus I am a citizen of heaven. In Jesus I am a chip off the old block. In Jesus I am Father's child, whom he loves and delights in. I now have a reality to grow into that my heavenly Father has created through Jesus, and empowers to become a living reality through the Spirit.

So you'll notice today's jigsaw piece has written on it; 'Walking in the Spirit'. Good News, we don't have a list of rules to follow. We don't have an idea to agree with and defend.