

new nature in Jesus. Stop it. Ask Jesus to send the Spirit so in his strength I can stop that unloving behaviour and then in the power of the Spirit I can live out a behaviour that is true to who I am in Jesus.

No wonder Paul says love never dies, because your new nature in Jesus won't die when he returns, it will only be magnified when we live openly in Jesus' loving presence. It will only explode to new heights when we live face to face with Dad, being totally wrapped in his love for us.

What a wonderful life Jesus has given us to live, to enjoy, to share with him. Today remember

you're loved, and in Jesus that is your new nature; live it. Invite the Spirit in to grow you, to mature you in loving as you are loved by Jesus. Invite the Spirit in that you might love extravagantly as your Father does. Invite the Spirit in that you might love for no other reason than in Jesus that's who you are. And then watch the smile on Dad's face.

Let's pray.  
Jesus, thank you for recreating us in your image. Thank you for creating us to love as you do, because we are loved by you. Because we are Father's loved

children. Reveal to us where our behaviour isn't in harmony with our new nature in you. Flood us with the Spirit that we might stop, change and live true to who we are. Spirit we invite you in to grow us to ever greater maturity in living true to who we are in Jesus, that we might love as we are loved in every situation we find ourselves in, to every person we encounter. May our life be opportunities to let the world see your love, your grace, your mercy, to see you for who you are.

3 February 2019  
**LOVE: IN JESUS IT'S WHO YOU ARE**  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13



The Last two Sundays the second reading has been from 1 Corinthians 12, which obviously comes before 1 Corinthians 13. So to understand this section it is good to know what went before. 1 Corinthians 12 looks at the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Gifts for building the body of Christ.

Paul in this teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit says this; "So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts." (1 Cor. 12:31a) I'm sure we'd all like to using the most helpful gifts. Then Paul writes; "But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all." (1 Cor. 12:31b)

Notice the context is 'Gifts of the Holy Spirit'. When you

think of a gift what comes to your mind?

The first thing that comes to my mind is that it is given to me, it's a gift. Another person has given it to me, and then I get to unwrap it and use it.

A gift is not the result of my hard work. You wouldn't call a person's weekly wage a gift. They're the result of our own effort. A gift doesn't come from my efforts, it's given to me. It's a gift.

So what has this to do with Paul's great message on love?

Today I'm reminded that love is a gift, and in this particular context a gift from the Holy Spirit. And gifts are given and received, not the result of hard work.

Of course I can develop and use a gift once I have it, but it first needs to be given.

Good News, in Jesus the Holy Spirit has been given, and he has given each of us the gift of love. The love we're talking about is the very nature of God, for 'God is love' (1 John 4:16)

Today you're not being given another job, we're being reminded of our new nature in Jesus. Jesus character, his very nature is love, that's why he loves. It's who he is.

So if I'm not loving, the question arises in my mind; 'Why aren't I living true to who I am in Jesus.' For Jesus has given his life that I might have this new nature; that I

---

**Christ Church Lutheran**

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

might love as I am loved.

Notice Jesus never calls us to be loving so that he'll love us; then it wouldn't be a gift. No Jesus always says; "Love each other. Just as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

Jesus has already given his life for you, because he loves you. It's his nature to love. So for us not to love means we've lost our true nature.

We were created in the image of God, which means we were created to love just like our Dad.

Sadly when Adam and Eve sinned they lost a clear sense of their Dad's love for them, to the point that God is a stranger. We're born without a sense of who God is let alone that we are loved and precious to him, the delight of his life.

No wonder Paul says; 'I'm bankrupt without love'.

What a different world it would be if we all lived loving as we are loved because that's who we are.

Not loving because it makes me feel good, because it meets an

---

### LOVE is a GIFT

---

unfelt need within me. Not loving to be accepted, to be thought of as a good person. But we are now gifted with a new nature in Jesus. We are gifted with Jesus' nature; we are loved, so we can love. We can give what we have.

And I know what his love looks like. It's not a mystery. Paul has just spelt it out for us. I know what love looks and feels like; I'm loved by Jesus. He has given

his life for me. Jesus has sent the Spirit to be with us. And he does want us to love one another; that's what he gave his life for, that we might know Dad's love and let that flow through everything I do, everything I say, every thought I have.

Step one in love, remember it's a gift. A gift to be received, opened and then used. And with use it will grow, or more to the point, I'll mature in loving. I'll mature in my new nature as I live it.

So when I discover an area where I'm not loving in harmony with my new nature, what do you think I should do?

Work harder? Yes. No.

What do you do when you find yourself not loving another person; being grumpy because things aren't going as you like.

What do you do when you don't feel like loving another person because they just a pain in the neck. Is your first thought to work harder? Or is your first thought to condemn yourself?

I recon Jesus' first step is to invite us to come to him, that he might love us. Loved people love. Stressed, angry, frustrated, annoyed people need to be loved not told they have to work harder otherwise God won't like you.

By working harder you won't get God to love you one bit!

When I feel that I'm forcing my way on others, Jesus invites me to repent. That's not to condemn myself, but rather to come to him. The first step in repentance is recognising that what I'm doing doesn't reflect Father's love in Jesus. Then I can invite the Spirit in to

show me how to, to give me what I need to live out Father's love that I have in Jesus.

Have you ever notice that you can't create love by forcing another person to work harder? You can make me feel guilty, but a life lived from guilt isn't a life

---

### Jesus Love You

---

of love. You might engage my competitive spirit so I'll show you how well I can do, but that's not love either.

Love comes from where?

Love comes from the heart. And Jesus is our heart, the core of who we are. It's Jesus who has created us in his image. It's Jesus who has breathed the breath of life into us through the Spirit. So our love comes from

the core of who we are; it's never an added extra that makes us look good. It's always a wonderful gift that we can receive, unwrap and live.

Isn't that wonderful news. In Jesus, God has gifted you with his love, to the point that in Jesus this is

now your new nature. Your new nature empowered by the Spirit to be lived out, and through use we get the wonderful gift of growing maturity in the way we love, but not only in the way we love but wonderfully we also mature in knowing Dad's love for us. It moves more and more from something we know is true to the life we daily experience.

So when I'm struggling in one of these areas that Paul mentions, I repent. That is admit it. Admit that that behaviour doesn't reflect my