

That is a big commitment that God offers us. So, what sort of commitment do we give back to God?

We read it earlier in Matthew. Love the Lord God with all your heart, all your mind and all your soul. This isn't something that can't be done half-heartedly, it is with all of your heart. It can't be like some supporters of the footy, when for instance their team starts losing and they jump on the band wagon of the latest winning team. No, when you commit to Jesus, it is with all your heart, mind and soul.

We can commit to Him because He is love, He will never fail us, and He has already won us our salvation.

Spend some time with God now. Thank Him for His never-failing love and His commitment to you. How might you grow in your relationship with Jesus this week?

Invite Jesus to speak to you, grabbing that first

thought in your mind about how you might be able to show love actively throughout your week. Ask those around you if they would like to be prayed for, then ask Jesus what He has for them.

I hope you have a safe and blessed week reflecting and growing in love and in your relationship with Jesus.

28 June 2020

## COMMITMENT TO CHRIST



Today we continue the theme of growing in an intimate relationship with Jesus, specifically looking at what commitment means to us and how we commit to Jesus.

What would have happened if Noah had only made 75% of the ark or stepped back and had a look and thought, yeah that will do. Imagine if he had left a small hole in the side or didn't bother putting the roof on. What if he decided to spend that time elsewhere, perhaps taking the weekend off? Noah couldn't afford to only be partly committed to

the task but had to be fully committed, trusting in God. Noah and his family's survival were dependent on his faith and trust in God. This is the same here for us now.

Commitment, real commitment can be very difficult at times and yet it is asked of us every day. Our commitment to our spouses, diets, family, work or school. For us to maintain our commitments, balance is required. Commitments don't just happen on their own, but require time, care and effort. You couldn't just enrol in a class

and not study and expect to receive top grades. What do you have to?

You have to put time in. While this is how it works for many aspects of our life, it is different when it comes to our relationship with Jesus.

He knows we are not perfect. We fail Him again and again. As a new person in Christ, we are called to live out a new life letting go of our old ways and sinful habits.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" We are

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**Christ Church Lutheran**

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

made new! Despite our continued struggle with sin God declares in Christ we are new!

Lamentations chapter 3 verse 22 and 23 says

“Because of the Lords great love, we are not consumed. For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness”. When do we get to start afresh? Every day and even throughout the day, because of the Lord’s great love. And because of our Baptism we are washed clean and rise anew each day.

I’ve always been told the best marriage advice someone can have is to not let the sun go down on your anger. It’s better if

you can resolve the problem with your partner, because then you can start the next day anew. And you do that because you are committed to the relationship.

God forgives us and makes us new because He’s committed to us. He is passionate about you. He’s passionate about me. He gets so excited to see you wanting to commit your life to Him. We don’t and won’t always get it right But because of God’s love and forgiveness we are able to move forward, growing in a more intimate relationship with the Father, striving to remain steadfast and committed in our relationship with Him. If we are committed to

following God, then we follow His commands.

What was the new commandment Jesus gave in Matthew 22?

“Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.” And what was the second commandment Jesus gave? ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

If we commit to God and to following His word, what are we commanded to do? We are called to love. And what is love? We read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 to find out. “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is

not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

So, we are called to do all these things because this is what love is. We are called to love God and our neighbour. Who is our neighbour? Everyone! So, when you are caught in the 5 o’clock traffic and you’re surrounded by your neighbours, is it easy to remain patient? To not become angry?

We have good

news! Jesus declares we are a new creation! Because we are new in Him, He asks us to be committed in our relationship with Him. Have you ever heard of the acronym FROG? It stands for Fully

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## FROG

### Fully Rely On God.

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Rely On God. When we acknowledge that we aren’t perfect and that we need Jesus, we can begin to do our best in being in a committed relationship with Him.

How do we know we can rely on God? Because God is love! Re-read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 but instead of using

the word love, say God. “God is patient, God is kind. He does not envy, He does not boast, He is not proud. He does not dishonour others, He is not self-seeking, He is not easily angered, He keeps no record of wrongs. God

does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. He always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. God never fails.

How reassuring is that? That we can fully rely on God and He is committed to loving us and He will never fail us. That is how much God is committed to you. He is so committed that he gave His one and only Son so that we can live with Him forever.