

you grow to greater maturity, living out 'I am who I am'.

In Paul's letter to the community of faith in Rome he calls them to love sincerely. Now I can love sincerely, because I'm doing it from the core of who I am. I'm not seeking to love because I feel needy, or want to prove myself, or any other agenda. In Jesus you can grow and mature in loving sincerely because it is who you are.

Paul calls us to 'hate what is evil; cling to what is good.' That would be impossible if you didn't know what was evil or good. If I'm simply responding to the world around me, that is evil. If I'm doing it to get good, that is a distortion as well. Thank God, in Jesus, when you live true to who you are in

Jesus, you can define good and evil. When you live true to 'I am who I am' in Jesus what amazing freedom. In Jesus you actually end up creating good, you end up breathing God's loving presence into a situation, simply by being there, by being true to who you are.

This week I invite you to ponder on that wonderful name of God; 'I am who I am'. Ponder how in Jesus you to get to reflect God's image living true to who you are. Life's situations don't define you; Jesus has, does, will. You, like Father, can say; 'I am who I am' for he has made you his loved child, in who he delights. He has embraced you in a relationship of love and affection in a conversational atmosphere, where

you naturally live out his supernatural love.

Jesus thank you for saving me from a life of slavery. Slavery to things, to people, to fears, to wants, to insecurities, to desires. Jesus thank you that I can live true to who I am in you. In you 'I am who I am'. Let me live in the truth of that this week. Open my heart to the work of Spirit in my life so I grow and mature being all that you have created me to be. Jesus, I reject seeking my identity in anything other than you. I thank you that my identity is in you and in your power and authority I get to live true to that new identity I have in you. Lead me and guide me this week that the way I live is a living reflection of you, and brings glory, praise and honour to your name.

30 Augusts 2020

I AM WHO I AM

Exodus 3:14



In the story from Exodus for today, God has called Moses to go and speak for him. I can see a parallel, in that God has called you and I to speak for him. Both Moses and ourselves speak a message of freedom from captivity. Not just freedom from captivity but we also have a message about the 'Promised Land'.

For the Children of Israel, the 'Promised Land' was a geographical area; that we call Israel, today.

Where's the 'Promised Land' that we proclaim? Forgiveness of our sin, through Jesus crucifixion is the doorway into the 'Promised Land'. We don't have a geographical area,

we have a relationship; a relationship of love and affection with God the Father.

Our 'Promised Land' is living in Father's heart of love. We now get to begin exploring the height, the depth, the width, the breadth of Father's love for us through Jesus.

You're not a slave, you're a loved child, whom Father delights in. For we have been re-created in Jesus image through his death and resurrection.

I'm not a slave, I'm a child of God. I'm Jesus friend. I walk intimately with Spirit. I am not a slave, I have been set free.

Set free for life; life lived intimately with Father; that

wonderful relationship of love and affection lived in a conversational atmosphere. We're not strangers; we recognise Jesus voice. we have Spirit's promptings as we discover this wonderful life together that Jesus has created for us.

An important part of our freedom, our liberation, is discovered in the name God chooses to use in this story. When Moses asked who he should say sent him; I love the answer; 'I am who I am. Tell them, 'I Am has sent me to you.' (Ex. 3:14)

An oppressive slavery that Jesus has rescued us from is the slavery to other people's opinion. Peer group pressure, at any age, can be a

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

powerful force in shaping what we do and how we see ourselves. It is so easy to be a slave to other people's expectations, to external social norms that we are expected to conform to.

Part of the legacy of 'Original Sin' is we lost our compass on knowing who we are, what's the right thing to do, should I do it or shouldn't I. We lost our compass and took up listening to the people that we saw as successful.

Isn't that fashion; we follow what is presented as the right look, and if you don't fit that look, you're strange. So we have short hair, long hair, no hair, pink hair, half a head of hair, depending on who we see as successful.

We all want to be liked, accepted, valued, appreciated, so we chase after

other people's approval. And in the process we enslave ourselves to ideas, hopes and dreams, an ideal body image, being the independent person – when really all we're doing is acting to a reaction, thinking that is successful, desirable.

I am recreated in Jesus
'I Am who I Am'

What a powerful slavery we are left in through 'Original Sin'.

Did you notice 'Original Sin' is far more insidious than just doing bad things? Without a compass, how do you determine good or bad? Without a compass, how do you know your worth? We're lost in a vast empty sea of thoughts and ideas, without anyway of weighing up what will bring lasting happiness.

I'm sure we've all done what we thought at the time would bring great happiness, fullness of life, only for it to fall apart over time.

Jesus has come that we might live from who we are. Not what we have made up, or what other people say about us.

Jesus has come that you might live true to who you are, for in Jesus you discover your true identity. In Jesus you discover who you are, so you too can say; I am who I am.

That isn't meaning I'm God, but I am made in God's image. I am recreated in Jesus image. That means I too can face life living true to who I am. I am not determined by things, events, or people's opinions. My job doesn't define me. My hurts and pains don't define me. My joys and perceived success

don't define me. If any of these did define me they'd also enslave me.

I'm defined by God's love for me in Jesus, lived out through the Spirit. I'm defined by this wonderful relationship of love and affection that Jesus creates.

What wonderful freedom. When you make a mistake, you're no longer a mistake. If what you did defined you, then when you made a mistake, then that's what you are, a mistake. Wouldn't that be a horrible way to live? I certainly think so, and have experienced it to be a horrible way to exist..

People treated me as second-rate, so I believed it true. I allowed this lie, that I'm second-rate to rob me of life as I believed it determined me.

Thank God, in Jesus, not being the best

doesn't determine me. In Jesus I now give up competing, inviting Jesus to reveal what he would have me do and then have a go. Who I am determines what I do, never the other way around.

Do you also notice that 'I am who I am' frees you, not only

Jesus sets you free to
enjoy life.

from depressing, negative thoughts, but it also frees you from pride. And pride, a false pride, could be more destructive of you than negative thoughts.

When Jesus sets you free to live true to who you are in him, he also sets you free to enjoy life. I get to enjoy what I do, what I achieve. I'm not using it to compare myself, to puff myself up belittling others.

God what's you to enjoy life. God wants you to find satisfaction. God's passion in Jesus is that you grow and mature in living true to who you are.

'I am who I am' what freedom we have in Jesus. Not only freedom, but with this comes the power to

change the world, the world doesn't change you. In Jesus my identity doesn't change just because things have gone bad, or I'm on the crest of a wave. In Jesus my identity never changes, for Father's love for me in Jesus never changes.

The world around me now simply gives me the opportunity to give living expression to who I am in Jesus. I get to give living expression to the DNA I have from Father.

Jesus is inviting you to explore the 'Promised Land' as