

In Jesus I'm forgiven, restored, healed, picked up to seek to love again, and again, and again, and again. I thank God, that in Jesus, he hasn't run out of patience with me; but comes and picks me up again so that I might seek again to do what is best for the other person according to their needs as I have the privilege of paying the price.

What motivates you?

Again don't respond to guilt, just ask yourself this question because you want Jesus to be the one motivating you. You want Spirit speaking to your heart, opening your eyes, guiding your actions, so that you act to benefit another person according to their needs at your expense.

And always remember it is at your expense, because in Jesus you've got plenty of love to give. You don't enter life empty handed, insecure, worthless. No way! In Jesus you tape into the source of love; God himself. And in Jesus you are a loved child of God who brings him great joy. You have amazing security to draw on, amazing worth to give, you have Jesus confidence to live out, and be brave in.

Jesus I thank you for loving me according to my needs that I benefit, and that you've paid with your life. Jesus, today, give me a responsive heart to you, open

my mind and heart to Spirit as you send him, that I might be aware of what you're calling me to do and be. Give me your Spirit that I take the initiative to do what is best for the other person, according to their need, joyfully paying the price. Grow us to be a community that lives this way, to your glory, honour and praise.

6 August 2020

'...CONTINUING DEBT TO LOVE...'

Romans 13:18-14



Last week's reading from Paul's letter to the community of faith in Rome finished with this thought; "Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good." (Rom. 12:21)

I know at times I've been tempted to let evil conquer me; I've snapped at people when I've felt attacked. I'm guessing we've all been tempted to simply respond to what has been done to us that we didn't appreciate.

The question being asked is; 'What motivates me?'

Am I motivated by hurt, pain, resentment, guilt, frustration, rage? If such things as these; of course there are many more like this. If such things as these motivate your

action, then your actions will end up being hurtful, painful, destructive of others. We'll end up where we don't want to be.

So today Paul points us to live motivated by God's love for us in Jesus. He writes; "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another." (Rom. 13:8)

Notice Paul is calling us to act from our own internal motive, not an external motive. Let Jesus amazing grace to you be what motivates your action. Obviously there is no way for me to repay Jesus for what he has done. Jesus doesn't want me to repay him, he simply wants me to live loved; because in him I am loved.

We are always called to live from the core of who we are, and not be manipulated or motivated by external pressures.

So Paul didn't give us a bill of rights; my rights. Then I'm focused on who, when it is my rights that I'm defending? They're my rights, for my good, and you should respect my rights.

Paul didn't present a bill of rights, rather he is calling you to be motivated by your love for the other person, taking the initiative to seek what is best for them.

The source of this motivation isn't me, and it isn't what I deserve, or need. The source of this motivation is all that Jesus has done for me, in spite of what I

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

deserve! Jesus took the initiative, totally secure in his Father's love.

So Jesus is inviting you to take the initiative, totally secure in his love of you. Take the initiative and seek to love as he does, as you are loved by Jesus. Take the initiative and be open to the opportunities to love that come your way.

If I'm chasing after love, because I feel unloved, insecure, what's motivating me, what's in control? I'm still living a slave to what I don't have.

Jesus has come that I might live giving what I already have. In Jesus, you are loved, you are forgiven, you are valued, you can now live from what you have. You are empowered to give, for no other reason that you have already been gifted.

You now can live taking the initiative to do what is best for the other person. What an amazing community we'd live in if we all did that; took the initiative to do what is best for the other person.

Of course that is the very community Jesus is creating. A

What Motivates You?

community of people who take the initiative to do what is best for the other person, so that they benefit according to their needs, at my expense.

Is that how you live?

Please don't take that question as one that is meant to create guilt. Jesus never wants you to be motivated by guilt.

If you feel guilty, the only response Jesus is after is for you to

go to him and ask why. Go to Jesus and admit you feel guilty, then ask him to bring about healing. Ask Jesus to heal your heart and open your eyes, so you can then seek to love, seek to do what is best for the other person according to their needs, as you pay the bill. For no other reason than that is how you give expression to the love you already have in Jesus.

Jesus never motivates by feelings of guilt. Feelings of guilt may indicate that there is something there that you and Jesus can talk about, exploring why, and seeking a loving response instead. Never live by guilt.

What a beautiful way of living Paul is inviting us into; living motivated by Jesus love; empowered by Jesus love. Taking the initiative, because in Jesus that's who

you are. Letting the Spirit prompt you, so that you are aware of the many opportunities to express love that are around you. Letting Jesus through the Spirit guide you into action, because he's just brought it to your awareness, never because you feel guilty.

So if you walk into your home and see that the carpet needs a vacuum, great, the Spirit has given you an opportunity to show love, as you take the initiative, get the vacuum cleaner and go to work.

You'll have just seen a need, that benefits those around you, and paid the bill by doing the work. I'd call that love.

If you walk into your home, asking the Spirit to lead you and you don't see any need to vacuum, then please don't. Don't feel guilty, Spirit

didn't put it on your heart.

Do ask him to give you eyes to see. Do ask Spirit to give you a responsive heart. Do ask Jesus to lead you, and then be open and responsive.

But please never because you have to. Never think you have

Ask Spirit to lead you. Don't feel guilty. Ask Spirit and Do.

to or else Jesus won't like you. Put to death all such thoughts. Rebuke them and send them packing. Then invite Spirit to place on your heart a desire to live loved as you are loved by Jesus.

Notice that when you are coming from this angle, you are actually set free to 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

You might be surprised to know that outside of Jesus

I don't feel loved. I feel judged, condemned, ridiculed, have unrealistic expectations placed on me. That inevitably leaves me feeling hurt, pained, resentful, bitter, angry, guilty, regretful. If that is how I feel about myself, guess how I'm going to treat you!

Thank God for Jesus. Thank God I can come to Jesus and pour out my heart and received what I don't deserve; his totally unconditional love. Thank God I can come to Jesus and confess how I feel, confess my mistakes, confess my biting tongue, confess my thoughtless words which were just spoken to make me feel good, to make me feel heard, but didn't really have any thought for the other person. Thank God for Jesus.