

relationship of love and affection, lived out in a conversation atmosphere where you get to live out God's super natural love quit naturally.

From this position Jesus invites you to pray. That simply means talk; talk to your Father about everything and anything, trusting he loves you.

Do you believe your heavenly Father just loves to hear your voice; even if you're just chattering on? Father loves to hear you voice; talk, and then talk, and then talk some more. He loves it, he love you.

What a beautiful position to be in; what a precious relationship to be living, daily.

This week I encourage you to spend time talking and listening to Dad; your heavenly Father. Share with him the things you love; love about his creation, love about him, love about the people he's placed in your life. Share with Dad the passions he's placed on your heart.

Then do something radical; actually it's not all that radical it's simply how conversation works. Ask Jesus what he thinks; what's on his heart, and then listen. Grab the first thought, idea, impression, sense, emotion, picture, name you get

and talk with Jesus about it.

Talk with Jesus about it as one who loves to hear your voice. As one who delights in you. Talk with Jesus as one you trust, knowing he's your loving brother. Speak with him on that level. Listen on that level.

To grow in a relationship as well as talk doing things together grows a relationship. This week invite Jesus to give you four people to visit, four people to invite out. Ask Jesus who, grab those names. Ask Jesus what he wants you to join him in doing with those people. Then do it.

I know Jesus is keen to grow in his relationship

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

1 March 2020

GROWING IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS—1

Genesis 3:1-7, Matthew 4:1-11

At the beginning of the year I said we'd be looking at three things; Commitment, Christ, Call.

In January we touched on 'Commitment'. Without commitment there can't be any depth of relationship. Good News, in Jesus God is 100% committed to you, to us.

That is the story of the Bible; he creates us to love us, when we run and hide he comes looking, to love us. Jesus comes in person, putting his life on the line. You don't do that if you're not committed to a relationship. In Jesus, God is committed 100% to a relationship of love and affection with us. God is committed to sharing his life with us, sharing

himself with us; sharing himself with you, personally.

Do you find that mind boggling; the maker of the universe wants to share himself with you in a personal relationship of loving commitment. He wants to open his heart and soul to you; and he has in Jesus. And he's created us so that we have the capacity to respond in the same way back to him.

Humans are the crowning glory of creation because we have the capacity to experience God's love and then to give it back, to live it back, as we live it out to each other. That struck me this week when I heard this passage: "I (Jesus) have loved you even as

the Father has loved me. Remain in my love." (John 15:9)

God's goal is this relationship of love; us living it out with him. Living in his love, knowing his love in the depth of our soul. How would you describe life without love?

Our reading from Genesis for today told a sad, but very real, story. There has been a plot to destroy this relationship. The devil robs humanity of it's ability to love God. God becomes unknown; you can't love an unknown. God becomes something to fear; you can't love that which terrifies you, that which you hide from.

That's absurd; I love you, just don't talk to me. I love you; but keep your distance.

Thankfully Jesus has come to restore our relationship of love and affection with God. Jesus risks revealing his heart and soul, risks rejection.

When it comes to loving another isn't that one of our greatest fears; rejection. We open up to the other person only to have them walk away, ignore us, look down their nose at us because they perceive another as more attractive. The fear of rejection has crippled many a love.

Jesus risks rejection, revealing to us his heart and soul. Jesus risks intimacy with us.

Over the next 40 days leading up to Easter I will be reflecting on

this wonderful relationship Jesus has created and how we might be growing in it with him.

Jesus has once again made is possible for us, for you, to love God. Jesus has recreated you in God's image; that you might experience

You're my Child, Chosen and Marked by my Love, Delight of my life.

his love and return his love in kind. That after all is how a relationship of love seeks to work; love is reciprocated.

Here we have the foundation of intimacy with God.

In Jesus you have been recreated in God's image; after Jesus is God, the very person.

In Jesus you have been recreated as God's child. That's why those words spoken at Jesus

baptism; and because you were baptised into Jesus these words are spoken over you. That's why these words are so foundational.

God the Father said; "This is my dearly loved child, who brings me great joy." (Matt. 3:17)

I like the way the Message paraphrase puts these words; "This is my Child, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my

life." (Matt. 3:17 Message)

That is the foundation of our intimate relationship with God.

This is what our Father desires us to grow in. That is God's heart's desire; that you grow

as his loved child, who he is over the moon with.

Is that your heart's desire?

I want it to be, but I know at times I doubt. I'm confronted with my own failures, my mistakes, my inadequacies, my deliberate rebellion. Does God really like me, let alone love me so extravagantly.

Then I'm assailed with the thought that I have to work harder to earn God's favour. I have to get him to like me; after all I'm not that bad a bloke.

Do I have to try harder to please God?

Jesus faced the same temptations. Straight after his baptism, we read today Jesus being tempted to doubt what Father had just said.

The devil comes and says 'if'; 'if' you are the Son of God, prove it. The devil comes to create doubt and rob Jesus of Father's love, just as he did with Adam and Eve.

The devil is envious of the love we share with Father, and he wants to destroy it. The devil is envious of you, for he is unable to love and be loved. He can hate, and he does live that hate out as he seeks to kill, steal and destroy that intimate relationship of

How do you see yourself?

love and affection Jesus has created for you to live and grow in.

In Jesus we amazingly don't come into God's presence on special occasions, we live in our Father's presence. In Jesus we are one

with God, all the time. I love these words from Jesus; "I pray that they (that's you) will all be one, just as you and I are one – as you are in me, Father, and I am in

you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me." (John 17:21)

Is that how you see yourself; one with God, in a loving relationship; Father and child? That's how God sees you.

Here is the foundation of our intimate relationship with God; here is where we grow from. The devil will try and

get you to doubt it; but one thing you can be sure of, if God says something he means it. So if he's given his very life to make it a reality there is just no way he's going to change his mind.

And in Jesus God has given his life; hasn't he. Given his life for you. Not to save you from your sins, but to forgive your sins, so that you might have life with him. An intimate