

**October 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday 2009**

*Touched by the Father's Love*

**1 John 4:7-12**

**Ephesians 2: 1-10**

**When God wants to give us something, there is nearly always something that needs to go..** that is what dying to self is all about, "kingdom of God is the good stuff coming, bad stuff going" (*John Wimber*)

As disciples/apprentices of Jesus, we are to major on Love and minor on everything else. To give love, I have to receive it first. I have to be loved. It is simple. But not easy, especially if there is pain that I have pushed down when I was not loved, or was left hurt.

**In life we either go against the grain or go with what people say.** As Ctns we are meant to go against the grain of our culture and go with what our Father is doing. So we have to fix our eyes on Jesus and what He is like, we have to set our will on receiving His love, having put our pain down first.

- **"It was one thing to get Israel out of Egypt, but it is another to get Egypt out of Israel."** (*Peter Jackson*)
- **We are called to be set free, sons of the father, dignity, to have great value of being, not great value of doing.**

**What old foundations are there in your life that the HS needs to bulldoze?**

**Often in our families, the model is that stuff is more important than relationships.** What you do is more important than who you are. You ask people who they are, they tell you what they do! As a parent my job is not to get my children to do what I want them to do but to help them find out what they are made for, who they are, and release them. That is church!

**But that is against the grain! We grow up with sense of "you should" but instead it is "I get to..."** to live out the life that Father has ordained since before time began. We are brought up to be sceptical and cynical.

**Shame is massive. Based in the lie that says "I do therefore I am"** Therefore the more I do the less I am. The less I do, the less I am. Therefore I must do more to be more.

**Which way round do you live?** God is not like this. His name is "I am" (and from that I do)

**Shame is what is shaping most cultures.** Perfectionism is taking shame to the ultimate degree. God is not a perfectionist but he is perfect. **Perfectionism is legalism. It is trying to get to God by doing yourself.** But we came into relationship with God through what Jesus did for me, not what I did **Jesus took my place on the cross and I take his place in the father.** He got what my deeds deserve and I get what his deeds deserve. What an exchange! I am seated with Christ in the Father

**John's gospel. Jesus modelled on earth what it is like to live in the Father.** I don't say my words but it is the father speaking through me. I can do nothing of myself only what I see the father doing through me. **How much is nothing?**

**That is hard when you are a perfectionist.** That is hard cos we feel that we will not be loved if we lean on God. Being loved has been equated with being busy, doing rather than being. If you don't

do anything then how can you be loved? Bumper sticker “Jesus is coming back, you better look busy”.

**The harder you try, the further away you get.** Just like the prodigal son. Both sons were lost. The older one was lost in his heart to the father.

**Are you lost in your heart but trying to impress him by doing?**

**We have to get this works thing out of us! Are you free from drivenness?** Or you got free and then you come right under it again, cos everyone around us is driven.

**The Father loves you just the way you are!** We are meant to grow from day one with a deep sense of knowing that we belong to the Father and we are his prince or princess.

**Have you believed lies, that someone better than you has taken the love meant for you,** that someone else is better than you. If you have that is an indication of self righteousness (ie you have done something of your own ability to please the Father, by works, rather than by faith through grace alone)

**Your salvation is a gift and your adoption is a gift, freely given and freely received.** God doesn't have any problem in giving it , but we have problems in receiving it.

**In order for grace to move in my life, there has to be faith.** You have to believe, in your heart, not just in your head. What do you believe about yourself in your heart. What are you in agreement with in your heart? *If it is not that you are loved without any “doing”, then this lie will block faith and grace will no move!* You have to confess this out first, and then choose to believe what the Father says about you.

## Questions:

1. How have you been doing recently in terms of “oozing” love out on others around you (especially those closest to you) and what does this reflect about how much you have received love yourself from God recently?
2. As you grew up, what foundations were built in your heart about how you are accepted? (i.e. I do therefore I am, (conditional love earned by effort and performance) or I am therefore I do, (unconditional love)). Describe how some of these foundations got built.
3. Spend some time renouncing these situations and wrong foundations by speaking them out to God. Don't be surprised if emotion comes. Express it (that is confession as well!) then spend some time receiving God's unconditional love. Pray truth over one another to this effect.