

What are your relationships revealing?

Matthew 22:36-40 records a conversation between Jesus and a teacher of the Mosaic Law.

³⁶ “Teacher, which command in the law is the most important?”

³⁷ Jesus answered, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”* ³⁸ *This is the first and most important command.* ³⁹ *And the second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’* ⁴⁰ *All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands.”* (NCV)

As often happens today, Jesus’ ‘answer’ is often taken out of context from he who is speaking it. We remove ‘the truth’ from the one offering the wisdom and make it ‘a truth’. As ‘a truth’ we can be seemingly applying that wisdom ourselves. As ‘a truth’ it is ours to understand and something we must do, often expressed as *“If I can love others, then I am loveable and then maybe Jesus can love me too? When I can do this, it proves to me that I have surrendered all my heart, soul and mind to God.”* Only we won’t have, because it is all works.

Human efforts to ‘love our neighbour’ are works that are exposed when the doors are closed and the darkness surrounds us. This revelation is that we are not able to achieve this love in our own strength. If we are able to convince ourselves (or others) that “we can do it”, it manifests as control. A human control that fuels abuses of power and breaches of trust that are carried out on the innocent, the vulnerable; our neighbour. The recent conviction of Cardinal George Pell, while in

the public sphere, is not isolated to the Catholic Church nor Christianity within our society. While the nature of this abuse is in the public arena, thanks to the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Abuse, it is by no means the only level of abuse of power and breach of trust, prevalent within churches.

When ‘Love of our neighbour’ is rejected outright, it manifests as “my rights!” which is an excuse to use and abuse our neighbour without consequence or consideration of the outcome, it’s about whatever “I” want. Or worse, it manifests as hatred, bigotry, racism, sexism and substance abuse. The recent slaughter in the Mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, while shocking and close to home, is by no means the only act of abuse of freedom and terrorism being enacted today.

Just as the Law of Moses was being abused in Jesus’ day, Jesus’ revelation in Matthew is twisted into something we “can do”, “must do” today rather than seeing the deeper truth! That truth is that unless we are in relationship with God, none of the Laws are achievable.

In fact, Jesus’ answer in Matthew is a summation of the 10 Commandments into its base components as recorded in Exodus 20:1-17. The first 4 commandments, verses 3-11, are a summation of **Love God**, and the remaining 6 commandments, verses 12-17, are a summation of **Love your neighbour**. Moses received the 10 Commandments from God. Matthew records the condensing of the Law from Jesus.

As ‘the truth’, we must listen to the one telling it. ‘The truth’ of this encounter recorded in Matthew is that Jesus is sharing with us the core of his being

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as God's Son. A Lordship of lords and Kingship of kings founded in his complete surrender to God his father! He is Saviour to all because he loves us as he is loved - completely, unconditionally and abundantly. This love is not only in his death on the Cross but in his life, ministry and resurrection by the power of the Holy Spirit! As God said at Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:17 *"This is my Son, whom I Love, and I am very pleased with him."* Mark 9:7 records it as *"this is my Son, whom I love, listen to him!"* On the Mount of Transfiguration God's voice out of the cloud said in Matthew 17:5 *"this is my Son, whom I love, and I am very pleased with him. Listen to him."* and Luke 9:35 records it as *"this is my Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to him!"*. In the Gospel of John 6:40, Jesus said *"Those who see the Son and believe in him have eternal life, and I will raise them on the last day. This is what my Father wants."*

The deeper truth Jesus is alluding to, is that if you haven't surrendered all you are to God, then you can't love your neighbour, not truly - often because you don't see yourself as worthy in God's presence. Eternal life isn't found in our efforts to love our neighbour. The love is the outpouring of our relationship with Christ Jesus and through him, God.

All the laws of the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament are wrapped up into two seemingly simple statements: 'Surrender all we are to God' which will 'be evident in our treatment of others'.

I can't help thinking, "the more the world turns away from Christ Jesus, the more acts of violence and abuse will escalate!" They shouldn't have happened at all given the revelation of Jesus as Saviour occurred over 2000 years ago. Only relationship with God through Christ Jesus can save us.

We are to be God's solution to a world in pain.

Our testimony as to who Christ Jesus is and his love that he shares is a revelation — good news to be proclaimed.

What do your actions and relationships reveal about your surrender to our Lord and Saviour?

May your continued witness and testimony be empowered by your surrender in and relationship with Christ Jesus our King.

Scott Combridge



Drakes Community Dollars - Supporting Local Church Programs

A really easy way to support community programs through Churches is to scan your Drakes Community Dollars tag at the Drakes Supermarket checkout. When you do, a small percentage of your purchase amount is donated to CareWorks, and we distribute it on your behalf.

We are always pleased when churches, groups and individuals phone in to ask for more Drakes tags.

It is a **simple** and **costless** way to support caring programs in our churches. So if you need a new tag, or a few for your friends let us know, and keep up the good work.

Its amazing how it all adds up. Thousands of dollars have been distributed through this initiative.



Let's all support the 15 Op Shops connected to Churches of Christ across the state as they in turn support local church mission.

Big A Boutique & Op Shop, 539 Goodwood Road, Colonel Light Gdns
Blair Athol Church, 379 Prospect Rd, Blair Athol

Boomerang Op Shop Elizabeth Church of Christ, Cnr Short and Ashfield Roads Elizabeth

Brighton Church of Christ Community Care, 65 Sturt Road, Brighton
CareWorks Cottage, 209 Henley Beach Rd, Torrensville

CareWorks Community Op Shop, 165 Woodford Road Elizabeth North
Connect @ Magill, 61 St Bernards Road

Good Gear Shop Marion, Cnr Alawoona Ave & Marion Rd Mitchell Pk
Kadina Christian Bookshop, 12 Graves Street, Kadina

Modbury Thrift Shop, 955 – 957 North East Rd, Modbury

Noarlunga Church of Christ Oasis, 165 beach Road Noarlunga

Welly Road Op Shop Mt Barker, 54 Wellington Rd, Mt Barker

West Lakes Bargains by the Bridge, Bartley Tce, West Lakes Shore

Salisbury East Church of Christ Thrift Shop, Cnr Smith Road and Yale Street Salisbury East

S.W.A.P. Balaklava, 29 Wallace Street Balaklava

955 North East Road, Modbury
Bus stop 42, opposite Westpac and Modbury Triangle



Plants



BBO

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Churches of Christ Modbury

Craft Fair

Saturday, May 4

Over 50 Tables of Craft

Great Mother's Day Gifts

9 am to 3 pm



Devonshire Tea



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Produce

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If anyone has a copy of the book "**Women of the Century**" which they no longer want, please contact the State Office who will pass it onto someone for whom the book is very special. Thanks.

Ph: 8443 7572

reception@churchesofchrist-sa.org.au

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra are pleased to present **Bach's St John Passion**. In this work the death of Jesus is laid before you with intensity, integrity, and potency. Conductor Stephen Layton has been conducting annual performances of the St John Passion for over 10 years, and his retelling of Bach's oratorio has been declared an *intense, dramatic reading with intelligence and integrity.*

Friday 12 April, 6.30pm & Saturday 13 April, 8pm
Adelaide Town Hall

Book now at aso.com.au or call 08 8233 6233

Link: <http://bit.ly/2TFuLKz>

Morialta Charitable Trust Fund has been supporting disadvantaged Children, Young People and their families in South Australia through its annual program of Distributions for 40 years.

To enable the Fund to continue this support through Community Organisations in South Australia Morialta Charitable Trust Fund seeks donations from the public.

Donations of \$2- and above are Tax Deductible and can be forwarded to the Morialta Charitable Trust Fund at PO Box 92, Crafrers SA 5152.

Father & Son Gents Camp

The modern dilemma of fathering boys is knowing what to pass on, how to do it, and why.

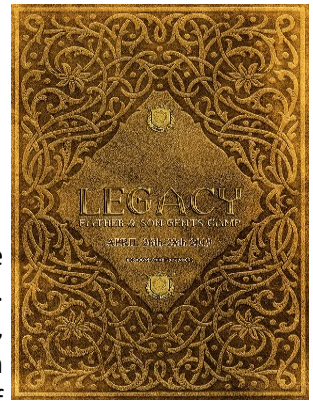
Never in history have these questions been so obscure. Boys are 'failing to launch', and lagging behind girls in nearly every measure of success and well-being (see *The Boy Crisis* by Warren Farrell, 2019). In Australia, young people have been leaving the church at a rate of 50,000 people per year (Phillip Hughes, Australian Christian Research Australia, 2013). Boys are suffering and the church in Australia has not consistently been part of the solution. GENTS Camp Father and Sons has been established to help fathers lay the foundations for the 'What?', 'How?', and 'Why?' of passing on a great legacy to their sons.

Current research has shown that fathers uniquely bring strengths in over 70 different ways to bringing up children - especially boys.

On camp we will explore some of these through battles, building 'stuff', Epic storytelling, fireside chats, and father vs son challenges. Camp is run by Christians and will draw on the great male archetype of Jesus, but will be a fantastic camp for all men who want to be great dads.

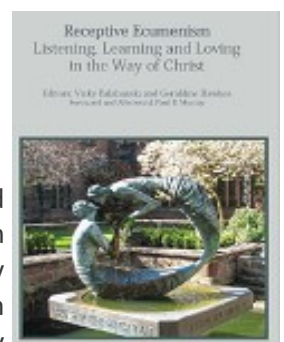
The camp runs from Friday April 26th Sunday April 28th, 2019.

More info and registration found here: www.wired-youth.com



Receptive Ecumenism: Listening, Learning and Loving in the Way of Christ

Editors Vicky Balabanski and Geraldine Hawkes, with Foreword and Afterword by Paul D Murray (Durham University, UK). Published by ATF Press.



This book is a response to the growing recognition of Receptive Ecumenism as a concept and process that has the potential to bring about renewal, reform and greater flourishing, both from within denominations as well as across the Church universal.

More information and purchase details at:

<http://atfpress.com/product/receptive-ecumenism/>

Walk to Church on Good Friday and share Hope this Easter!

Before she experienced the hope of Jesus, Sati had endured five long years of crippling illness and pain. When Pastor Raj visited her home in Fiji to pray for her, Sati had lost all hope of recovery. She asked him to pray that she would die so that she could be free from agony. Instead, in answer to prayer, she experienced freedom from pain and hope beyond her greatest expectations.



Many people around the world want to hear the essential hope of the gospel. They want to connect with supportive faith communities. But churches can be difficult to access, isolating people from the hope of Jesus. You can help change this by participating in Walk For Hope 2019. The funds raised by Walk For Hope will help send evangelists, train pastors and build churches so many more people can hear the gospel of Hope. For more information, resources or to sign up for the 2019 Walk, head to

www.walkforhope.com.au



News from Zimbabwe

BJ Mpofu sent through an email update on the situation there following Cyclone Idai. He writes,

"Dear Friends,

The cyclone that ravaged the eastern parts of our country was unprecedented. Reports from the area, and the TV clips, were pretty frightening. It was like one is watching a movie with everything just seeming impossible; like fiction.

I am reliably told the figures of those who lost their lives is in the hundreds and not in the tens. It is not only people who died but livestock as well. Crops in the fields were destroyed so these people were left with virtually nothing. It's a very unfortunate situation indeed.

Zimbabwe as a whole is facing a terrible drought as the rainfall has been way below average. So the problem has been compounded in these areas and food security is going to be a big challenge.

While the western areas (where we are) are free from the (direct) effects of the cyclone, we anticipate the effects economically are going to be felt soon as most of our fuel comes through Beira in Mozambique which has been badly affected.

We do ask for your prayers as we face an unfortunate future, worse with the political environment as it is, very uncertain. Thank you for thinking of us in these difficult times."

Call to Pray....

You are invited to join with people across our churches in praying for one another. This month we pray together for:

West Lakes United Church, Whyalla, Williamstown



Sunday 7 April, 2pm

Wesley Uniting Church, Kent Town

Tickets available online for \$30 at Trybooking.com

IGF FUNDRAISING DINNER

**25th May 2019
6pm—10pm**

Enjoy a 3 course Dinner
@ CLUB MARION
262 Sturt Road Marion

*Listen to some smooth tunes from RADZ Entertainment
as we give a warm welcome to*
John Paul Kiffasi - Executive Director IGF
Pastor Alfred Komagum

Sharing news from the **IRENE GLEESON FOUNDATION** in
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Introducing
Kenny & Scovia - Two young people whose lives
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Tickets \$55*
**Early Bird
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Now is the time to book your place.

You can book as an individual or why not make up a table of 10. You must book your ticket(s) via the website at

www.irenegleesonfoundation.com/dinner

Book by 1st May and save \$5/head.

Please call **Janet** on 0402858856 to advise any dietary requirements and for any other information.