



# Christ Lutheran Church

605 South Fifth Street • Norfolk, NE 68701

**Share God's Word, share His love, and do it now!**

Pastor Chip Winter, Director of Ministries

***"Get to know me" Part One John 3:1-3***  
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**Pastor David Paul Goehmann**

Dear family in Christ,

As Christians live in this world we are like little Christ's. We represent Jesus to people who essentially don't know who Jesus is. They don't know that Jesus died for them to forgive their sins because of his great love for them. Somehow they have gotten a different impression of Jesus. Maybe they think of Jesus as judgmental, maybe just a person, or maybe they don't think he existed at all, maybe they could just care less who Jesus is. For some reason they really can't understand Jesus, and for that reason they can't understand love itself.

And this is the frustration we will face. We just want people to know who we are. We just want people to know that someone loves them. But no matter how hard we try, they don't get it. They don't know us..

And so the guilt begins. We feel inadequate. We feel that we have not done a good enough job. We feel that we are not loving people enough. And we feel that we are failures.

Strangely enough it even happens with other people who are Christians. Sometimes they misunderstand Jesus, even though they should know him better than anyone else. Even our own children have missed the point as we tried to raise them.

They are no longer in church. Or they dropped their faith after confirmation. What happened? Did we not train up a child in the way he should go so that he will not depart from it. Proverbs Did we not set a good enough example?

Consider factors that are working against us. The wide spread lie of evolution. I've met many Christians who believe in evolution. When people start with the foundation of bad science there understanding of love in this world falls apart. Their World view is a worldly view. They think of life only at the very basic level. Life is only about fairness, survival of the fittest, and tearing others down to get what we want.

This line of thinking spread like wildfire as it was and still is taught in schools. It robs us of who we really are. We are not mere products of nature, like any other animal or plant. We are not just grown up monkeys and gorilla's.

God knew us even before we were born, even before our mother's conceived us. You were created by God special. You are people. You are actually children of God. You are made in the image of God, therefore you reflect who God is.

The star trek series, and I mean all the star trek series delivers an interesting paradox. On the one hand the show clearly bases it's science on evolution. All species including humans evolved and are at different levels of the evolution process. On the other hand, the crew, and especially the captain face moral dilemma's.

The prime directive is that they not disrupt other civilizations. But once again, for the sake of saving a species, or even another ship, they often break that prime directive. They are in constant conflict with other species, and have to make a choice between destroying aliens or saving them from certain death.

One particular episode Captain Janeway decides she will go out of her way, even sacrifice the lives of all the crew to save the life of just one member of a species. According to Janeway humans have a unique characteristic of showing compassion. Unlike other species that live purely to conquer other worlds, humans often help, care for, and even have compassion.

Is that really true of people? No, its not. By themselves all people are sinful at heart. People live for their survival because of their sinful nature since the fall of humanity by Adam and Eve. Apart from God, there is no real caring, no real compassion, and no real love.

So Jesus can break through the sin of the world and create change, create new people, and recreate people in his image, the image of love. This is the image we should see when we think of love, Jesus dying for us and suffering for our sins. This is the epitome of love.

What great love the father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God. What great love the Father has lavished on us that he sent his only Son to die so that we would have forgiveness.

Since Jesus is pure, we to are pure through the sacrifice and washing away of our sins by his blood. Yes, we are little Christs, purified by his blood, and now a part of God's eternal family.

And on that day when he appears in glory, we will be like him, in his glory in heaven. We will become the people we were truly meant to be apart from sin, perfected by God and through Jesus.

This is who we are, and this is what we hope others will know about us. We want others to get to know us enough to see that love, that compassion, and that gracious character of God.

So what do we gain from all this since we know who we are and how we want to love others. We know that Jesus stands along side us. We know that Jesus supports us and helps us withstand criticism. We know that Jesus works in us and through us.

Here is the point. We cannot prove to others who God is by our great love. We cannot hope to show others what true love is by our good works. Instead, we press on to tell others that we are loved, not that we love others so well. Any attempt to prove Jesus love through our own love will fail because the culture is too keen to see we are hypocrites every time.

In our quest for other people to truly know who we are and who Jesus is, we can live confidently and freely as we help others see that we are forgiven. They are not there by chance or have some inherent ability to love others. They are created to be God's children and to know they too can be forgiven by Christ.

Reveal to those who don't know Jesus that they are the ones who are loved. They are the ones who receive that help from God. They are the ones who can look and see what love is in Jesus.

Do you know what's better than doing an outward good deed? Forgiving others. Forgiving other just as Jesus forgave you. That is the secret to being a Christian. That is what other fail to see. That is what other fail to see in us, that we are forgiven, pure, and blameless through Jesus.

“Chick-fil-a” is a well known restaurant chain across the United States. Many know them as an organization based on Christian values. Because of that the restaurant is not open on Sundays. And I remember years back when you could get a discount if you brought in your church bulletin. Chick fil a has also had a reputation about it’s views on other issues like abortion or same-sex marriage. When the Supreme court passed same sex marriage as legal Chick fli a made the statement that it was a tragedy in the history of the united States because of its loss of the traditional family and building blocks of society.

Less than a year and a half ago 46 people died in a shooting in a gay bar in Orlando Florida. The community was gathering on Sunday to give blood and help counsel the families left in the aftermath. Despite Chick fil a’s views on Same sex marriage two of their restaurants opened on Sunday to serve free food to the rescue workers and was open to the public for service to the community. This was the kind of care and concern that was given as they knew people in that community needed to be loved and cared for.

What great love the Father has lavished that many do no see. Help others get to know you, that you are first and foremost a forgiven child of God. In that live in the spirit of the forgiveness of Christ. Ephesians 4:32 “Forgive others, Just as in Christ God forgave you.” Amen.

