

## Westfield Sermon notes

**Title:** Christ Likeness

**Readings:** Phil 2:1-11

**Preacher:** Mick Murphy

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017

This sermon can be found at: <http://www.westfieldurc.org/worship/sermons/>

### Sermon Notes / Comments:

- The word IF was mentioned four times
- If is a conditional word. It gives a choice
- If at first you don't succeed... if the cap fits... if you are happy and you know it...
- 4 ifs (if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion)
- First Paul brings to mind the encouragement, the encouragement that we should have by being united with Christ. There is a blessing when we are united. By believers in Jesus we are encouraged in this life by the presence of Jesus in our lives and living our lives through his commandments.
- When life is horrible, and we have all been through tough times, We have hope and strength to push through to the other times.
- Jesus brings us hope and strength. Paul says in Romans 15:4f everything in the past was there to teach us so that through the scriptures we may have hope.
- A question that is personal. Do you love the people of this fellowship? And the people of this nation? Is your love conditional? Does it come with a list of 'ifs'
- The cornerstone of our faith is Jesus' love which is unconditional – he emptied himself. He came to us as a supreme act of love and he lived perfectly for us. But he died for us too. This is perfect love.
- In Eph 5:1 Paul says be imitators of that love and live a life of love. John 4:10 this is love and vers 19 we loved because he loved
- Sometimes as Christians we don't realise how fortunate we are we always have a connection to God that non-Christians don't understand. Before Jesus people always had to have a priest to represent them. The sad thing is people were separated from him. But today, because of Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit
- That same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that is in us! That is mind blowing.
- You and I are connected and we are connected through fellowship.
- Smith Wigglesworth, read no other book than the Bible and the miracles that he did through Christ were unbelievable. He said that sinful people would be convicted simply by being in our presence! Do you believe that we can be so full of the Spirit that someone in our presence can be convicted of sin?

- Jesus' life was a constant reprove to the wickedness around him. I believe that if the Holy Spirit is in us we can be in that place too. 1 Cor 1:31
- Story re Smith Wigglesworth and the conviction of sin of the other travellers
- Paul says that the people you meet in every day life (the stores you go into) will be convicted of their sin by your presence. We must move away from everything that pulls us from this.
- The law has been done away with and The Spirit has brought in a new life of purity and love. If God has his way we would be like touches moving back the forces of wickedness of this world.
- What do I mean by the law has been done away with?
- The 4<sup>th</sup> if is about tenderness and compassion. Sometimes I lack this. But we should be marked by this.
- Our living out of the Bible and a desire to have an active relationship with God has benefits. This relationship should change us and if it doesn't we should take stock. Having a Bible based life creates in us a Godly character.
- Anything good in us is from God. Like the potter, God moulds us – but it is not finished.
- The Fruits of the spirit should be shown in our life if we walk with God closely. This is how your life should be.
- At the end times everyone, including Satan will bow the knee because he, like all, will recognise the authority of Jesus.
- Paul then talks about our spiritual condition. First we should be humble. If we rely on God then we will be people who are humble. Thinking of others better than ourselves. Out of that we should serve others. As Christians, we should be led by, such things as: love one another, love your neighbour, the first should be last, look first to the interest of others etc.
- Jesus knows everything that you go through.
- Service costs, it costs Jesus & will cost us. What did Jesus give up to serve us?

### Questions / thoughts and areas for discussion

- Read all the passages mentioned above. What do they say to you?
- Think about a past time when you were going through tough times – Did you feel God there with you?
- Do you know people who shine Jesus? How can we learn from them?
- Which of the fruits of the Spirit (read them they are Galatians 5:22-23) do you struggle with?
- How do we keep ourselves humble? Pride is a problem for most of us!
- How can we serve someone this week? What do we give up to serve others?
- Mick's 5 questions (are you humble; do you look to the interest of others; have you done something unselfish; do you look for ways to serve people; do you look to put others first). How do you answer these?

*Please note these are Mark's thoughts etc on the sermon and may not be the Preacher's!*