

Word Notes Sunday 01/10/17
Tim Anderson: Christ-centeredness

Summary *(read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday, listen to the podcast if you missed the talk <http://www.newmarketcommunitychurch.co.uk/podcasts.htm>)*

Key Text: Acts 17:28

Paul's words, spoken to people gathered on Mars Hill, Athens, call on some poetry of the time to explain our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. If we have truly placed Christ at the centre of our lives then we really do "live and move and have our being" in him. To unpack this a bit, we mean that we:

- Live for and through Christ – the manner of our living. All the external things that other people see, our actions, vitality and fullness all reflecting the nature of Jesus.
- Move for and through Christ – our motivation the cause of our actions and attitudes are all submitted to his rule.
- Place our "being", the "who I am" rooted in Jesus – my identity and core foundation is firmly anchored in my identity as a child of God through faith in Jesus.

Being "Jesus centred" is to turn from me-centred living to Christ's rule in my innermost self. This works its way through my whole being right out to the me that others experience. All of me is immersed in Jesus.

What did it mean for Jesus? That he expressed in all ways the relationship with his Father God. In his being that meant he never had to be concerned of his identity or value. No need for any ego, he is God's Son, in whom He is well pleased (Matt 3:17). His motivation is the same as the Father's – Compassion. In his actions, he only ever does what he sees the Father doing.

Jesus is master class in how to do life in every aspect. He clearly involved his Father in all things. Being guided and submitted, not just living in the feeling of the moment but knowing where his true north is – "Man does not live by bread alone but by every word of God".

What can it mean for us: all of those things that it meant for Jesus and which then lead us to be grounded in our identity, motivated by compassionate love and intentional in all that we do.

Application *(this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)*

Who has the final say deep down in your innermost being? Sometimes the best way to find out is to see what happens under pressure. When things are going wrong, when people let you down, do you react the me way or the Jesus way? How can we move more towards the Jesus way?

True love is a love of giving not a love of receiving, even our romantic love of a partner can be about what I get in return rather than a completely selfless love for another. Discuss how that might be and how we can move from "fish love" to true love in our relationships.

Who is God moving you to invest selflessly in right now?

Do you know whom you are "in Christ"? In the New Year there will be an opportunity to dig much deeper into this through the Freedom In Christ course which we will run in the church. The course has been rewritten and shortened to ten sessions with new video and course materials so if you or your small group are interested let the leaders know soon to help with their planning for a January launch.

Witness *(this is the bit where the cell talks, plans and prays about how to share the Good News)*

What stirs you up, what gets you passionate to get up and do stuff? What stops you? How can you change that?