

Reflections on the message by Mike Kerry on Sunday 11th July 2010

“What a Friend we have in Jesus”

We can point to various examples of the Church in action, helping one another. We are here at the BFC centre because of a step of faith of two couples who bought this site with its house and outbuildings. They named the house *Koinonia*, a New Testament Greek word meaning *fellowship*, the kind which means putting yourselves out for one another.

Acts 2:42 shows a determination of the first believers to pursue these important facets of a life of faith.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (AV)

An emerging, Jewish church was bursting out in Jerusalem. Are you steadfast in reading God's word, in your private prayer life, and in fellowship? It is important that we practice what the Bible teaches.

Marion still loves Mike, despite the effects of the ageing process. To know you are loved is very reassuring. There is a human need for love, especially the love of a father. We teach about marriage here. We teach that husbands are to love their wives sacrificially – to love no matter what happens.

In the following two passages, Jesus commands us to love one another in the same way that He has loved us.

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* ³⁵ *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.* (ESV)

John 15: 9-13 ⁹ *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.* ¹⁰ *If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.* ¹¹ *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.* ¹² *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.* ¹³ *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.* (ESV)

Think about the enormity of Jesus' love – what Jesus went through for you. And we are to love one another just as much. It is not sentimentality. Jesus died so that we might live and be with Him. He sacrificed so that we might have salvation. He loved us enough to hang on a cross. He expects us to die for Him; to release our worldly ways, turn away from sin and let 'flesh' die.

A friend is someone you can call upon for help day or night; someone you can trust with your secrets. Someone who will tell you when you are wrong and still love you. Anyone who slips away when things get difficult is not a friend. What a Friend we have in Jesus!

How do you get such a Friend? Ask to meet Him! It is a relationship closer than that of a brother.

The cross of Calvary is where the love of Jesus is exemplified. The cross was a a place of death, but where life can start anew. If you don't know Jesus, you need to come to Him, the One who died for you.

Jesus' love for you was so great that He laid down His life for you. There are times when we are uncaring enough not to speak to the person next to us, let alone die for him or her. If we got to know Jesus better we would care for others more. If someone who had been rejected from other churches, perhaps had an obnoxious attitude, came in here and sat down next to you, would you welcome them? David and Karen Davis took in drug addicts to their rehabilitation centre, saw them delivered from drugs and saved. A few weeks ago we heard testimonies of salvation from two men formerly involved in the gangster scene of Liverpool. Can we love the prostitute, the alcoholic and the drug addict?

If Jesus is your friend you need to demonstrate His love for the world. Everyone has a chance as far as God is concerned. Too many grew up without the love of the Father. We must tell people they can have a friend in Jesus. Get to know who this Friend is. Spend time with Him.

We can all be guilty of prejudice, but you need to get hold of the reality of loving your brother. Those who are unsaved are still loved by God. Don't condone sinful living but offer a way out of it. Let them know that sins have been forgiven. Jesus paid it all!

Hebrews 13:1 *Let brotherly love continue.* (ESV)

Hebrews 13:14 *For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.* (ESV)

