

Collaborating in Love

Sermon Notes for Apr 30 2017 at Knox, New West



Ps 103 and Luke 10:25-37

**He said, “That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence – and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself.”
(Luke 10:27 in *The Message*)**

Provocative Ponderings that Call Forth Our Potential in Christ

- Our text this morning is Jesus’ summary of the law and the prophets, of the whole Judeo-Christian tradition in three simple-to-say phrases – love God with your whole being, love your neighbor, and love yourself – if anyone asks you what Christianity is all about, that’s what you say – it really is that simple
- But, you may very well say to yourself or even out loud, “Hey, Fraser, it’s never been that simple and it’s certainly not that simple in our complex, confusing, and contentious world.” – stop being such a dreamer and idealist – get REAL!!
- Well, if you are going to take the testimonies of the Scriptures to what God is doing for his creation in Jesus Christ - and that is a choice we all have – then you’re going to be confronted with the reality that this is REALITY – this is the way God works – and if you are going to apprentice to and be accomplices with that God in reconciling and restoring the creation to God’s original intention, then this is the core/chord chart that you need to know and improvise around
- The four churches that make up the Collaborating Churches of New West and Burnaby are using this summary and the Good Samaritan story Jesus tells to reinforce it with the contentious lawyer as the focus for our Christian Urban Camps this summer – we are slowly experimenting with opportunities to strengthen the mission and ministries of each of the collaborating churches in their neighbourhoods – an alternative to the approach so many in our church want to impose of closing or amalgamating churches that seem to be failing and use the resources for alternative forms of being church – rather, we want to explore ways of strengthening and supporting each other to enhance the ways in which Jesus Christ is able to touch people with his grace and enrich the journey of faith with others – for example, in funding our Christian Urban Camps this summer, we’ve raised almost \$35,000, if you include the Canada Summer Jobs grants that three of the four churches have received
- What might be possible as we collaborate in love with those kinds of resources? – let your imaginations run a bit wild – 6 students working with us to strengthen our visions and figure out how they can best interlace to support each of the four congregations – here at Knox, to strengthen your faith that inspires, your family that nourishes, and your friendship that blesses – sowing seeds of God’s SHALOM (the rich blessings we heard about in Psalm 103 this morning) in and well beyond our congregations
- Each of our congregations has their problems and challenges – but if we get stuck in them, if our God-given imaginations shrink in the face of them, then we will fail in our missions – let’s use the opportunities God has given us this summer to open up new possibilities

Notes for a sermon preached by Brian Fraser,
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At this point in our ponderings, then ...

I'm not sure where this collaboration will take us – it's opened up some exciting possibilities already – an expanded version of the Christian Urban Camps with a curriculum developed by our own people – the beginnings of a conversation about how we work together to nourish the people in our congregations to age in grace and support others in their circles of influence to do the same – and we're keen to hear new ideas for ways our collaboration in Christ's love can grow in its depth and breadth – all in service of Jesus' summary of the law and prophets – love God with your whole being, love your neighbor, and love yourself