

# church by the bay portarlington

Morning Church family,

We had a wonderful outdoor service on Sunday. We had at between 16-20 people who joined the service who if we weren't outdoors would not have come. We had one person make a commitment to Christ on Sunday and another person who attended Sunday make a commitment to Jesus today. There were also several others who took further steps towards Jesus! Praise God.

Thank you to the sound people who get there so early, our musicians for practicing and the others who cook sausages and serve morning tea. Thanks to those who spoke to new people and made them feel welcome. I asked one person, *"What stood out to you about this morning."* They said, *"Two things. The first was that I was so welcomed. People didn't just come and say 'hi' but they genuine welcomed me. The second was the great sense of family here. We've never had that (the family) and it's wonderful."*

Our Last outdoor service is Easter Resurrection Sunday, April 16th at 11am. We'll have a spit roast going and will have a wonderful forever family time. If the weather is no good we'll have it at CBtB.

Be praying now about who you can invite. It might change someone's eternal destiny.

## **A reflection....**

Recently I was reading 1 Corinthians 10. Paul uses examples from the Israelites who fled Egypt to teach the Corinthians. Like the Israelites they have eaten of *"the same spiritual food"* and *"the same spiritual drink"* which was Christ. Despite this, Paul says God was *"...not pleased with most of them."*

Paul uses three stories to illustrate displeasure God's. They had;

- A drunken, orgy when Moses was away receiving the 10 commandments from God
- Complained against God and Moses when there wasn't enough food and water
- Complaining about Moses and Aaron's leadership

What struck me was that two "idolatry" examples were about complaining and one about a drunken sexual orgy. The later we'd see an "obvious" sin but what about the "sin" of complaining or grumbling!

Paul says that God sees all these behaviour as "idolatrous." An idol is an image, either in our imagination, or that we can see, that we look to as being more important than God. It could be a material item like a car, but it could equally be something we can't see like our reputation. It could be a trophy I have or an imagined desire of what I want to see happen in my sport, family, friendships, ministry or career. Idolatry is a failure to love God with

what Jesus said is the greatest commandment, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul and all your strength.”* There are *“visible sins”* and *“deeper sins”*. All of the examples that Paul gives in 1 Corinthians 10 are visible sins but Paul says they emerge from the deeper sin of Idolatry. So whether I am having a drunken sexual orgy or complaining, both show that I have a *“deeper”* sin of making something or someone more important than God.

Now in our church family I don't see a big issue with drunken, sexual orgies. I am sure that there will be some of us struggling to realise our old self is dead and allow pornography and lustful thoughts to plague us, but I'd imagine that the more visible and *“respectable sin”*, is the one of complaining. It certainly is in my life! Here are some of the *“respectable”* excuses we use to justify our complaining:

- Venting
- Sharing
- Processing
- Joking
- Being real

I think these labels are the subtle ways we protect our idols; those things we look to other than God for our strength, purpose and sense of who new are.

Paul said to the Corinthians Christians (and many others), those who practice idolatry will *“not inherit the Kingdom of God.”* That's because when we're constantly looking to our idol, by the way we speak and act, we aren't looking towards God. We're in effect saying to God, *“I'd rather go my way and to my idol than your way. I don't need you.”* When we consistently do this in the end God will say, *“Ok have it your way”*.

If you're feeling a little convicted right now, then perhaps do what I did this yesterday. Examine your complaining and see what you've turned into an idol. Ask God's forgiveness and then remind yourself in front of your heavenly Father that when you complain this *is not* who you really are. Then thank him that he has freed you from this old self and its dead practices.

When you do this you are grabbing hold of not just who **You are** but who **We** are. The old self wants to complain about God's means to transform us. When we don't complain we are living *“True”* to what we are made to be, love God with All of our Hear, Soul, Mind and Strength.

Want more- Read Romans 5:1-5.

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### **Praying for the future of our youth and our buildings.**

Please pray for the *“Youth Discipleship”* selection team as they go through interviewing and meeting with people to see if the Lord bring anyone they would want to recommend for the position.

The elders and I also asked that in your triplets and small groups you could take some time to pray and listen to God in regard to the future of our buildings. If you *“hear”*

anything please send it through to me. We hear God's voice together so please send in what you believe God says to your group.

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**[YKC website launch.](#)**

Last week the YKC went "live." It was so good on Sunday seeing someone make a commitment to Jesus and then when they asked "Whats next?" to pull out my smart phone, point them to the YKC website and with the person who lead them to Jesus, show them how they could start the discipleship journey together. We really are increasingly becoming *Going Disciples that are Growing Disciples.*

Blessings for the rest of the week.

Dave