

Theme: Living in Right Relationships ♦ Rev. Dr. Peter Hall

Scriptures: Mark 9:30-37, James 3:13-18 & 4:7-8a

Last week, in the Mark reading, we noted that the disciples discussed among themselves who was the greatest in their little group. To add to what was written last week we can look at Jesus' teaching of the disciples in response to their discussion. To be a servant of all means that we are available to help everyone that seeks it. A servant in Jesus' day lived in the same place as the master and had to be prepared to do whatever he/she was told to do by the master or the members of the master's household.

How would each one of us react to that situation? Note that Jesus coupled this with an understanding of dependency. He took a little child to demonstrate his teaching. A little child is really dependent on others to care for him/her, providing for their needs, physically, emotionally and spiritually. It is about what we can do for others rather than what others can do for us. Often there are no thanks or signs of gratitude at the time.

There can be even greater demands by the recipients and this can take real wisdom to deal with satisfactorily.

To do this we must become dependent; not on other people but on the Godhead. If our lives are to reflect the love of God to others then we really must allow ourselves to become dependent on God in every way. In the letter of James, chapter 4 and verses 7 to 8 he wrote that we must submit ourselves to God and if we come near to God then God will come near to us.

Thus we become vehicles of God's love to others, responding to people's needs as the Holy Spirit directs us.

The difficulty is the surrendering of our will to God's will. We like to be in control of our lives and so often we are prepared to submit to God some of the time but not all of the time.

May the Lord strengthen you to fulfil his teaching.

Amen
Peter Hall



- * **Rev. Dr. Peter Hall will be joining us for Gympie Worship next Sunday**
- * **Kidz Church resumes next Sunday**

Congregational Meeting

TODAY at 10.45am in our Gympie Church. We hope you can join us as the team updates you on our property activities, continuing supply ministry arrangements and where we're up to in the process of filling our ministerial vacancy. (Today, we'll be selecting and appointing members to the Joint Nominating Committee - JNC).

The meeting agenda was emailed to the congregation on Tuesday and paper copies will be available after this morning's worship service. Please remember to sign the meeting attendance register.

It's vitally important that we keep the JNC in our prayers as they work through the ministerial selection process. May they have wisdom and listen to God's guidance while seeking to find the one God calls to our church.

October Hymnfest



Sunday, 13th October from **2.30pm** in our Gympie Church.

We'll be singing lots of favourite hymns and enjoying time together over a cuppa. It would be great if you could bring some afternoon tea to share and you are very welcome to bring your friends.

Book and Jigsaw Library

There's been interest in starting up a Book and Jigsaw Puzzle Library - so it's happening! If you would like to share a good read or an engaging puzzle, please bring it in for the library trolley which will be located on the church verandah after our Sunday services. You can take an item home with you and return it when you've finished for someone else to borrow and enjoy.

Don't simply be **AWARE** of God's presence with you today.

Be **DEPENDENT** on Him.

(Pastor Mac Hammond)

Coming up in October

- * **Uniting 4570 Prayer Warriors** - 8am, Tuesday mornings, CE room
- * **HymnFest** - Sunday, 13th October, 2.30pm, Gympie Uniting Church
- * **Joy Circle** - Thursday, 17th October, 9.30am
- * **Combined Churches at Prayer** - Tuesday, 22nd October, 6pm, in our Gympie Church





Have you ever walked through the Australian Bush a few months after a bushfire and found yourself surprised by what you see? Many of our Australian plants are uniquely designed or have adapted to germinate and grow better by being exposed to fire.

Our First Nations peoples have known for thousands of years how fire stimulates the mass germination of wildflowers and other plant growth. The practice of cool-burns with plenty of white smoke is an important way of regenerating country.

It is an amazing sight to walk through the bush after a fire... with the bright green shoots of new growth, contrasting the fire blackened Eucalyptus trunks. The resilience and adaptability of the Australian Bush is so amazing. Underneath the bark of a eucalypt tree and other woody plant species lies thousands of dormant buds. These invisible sources of new growth are called "epicormic" buds. They are a remarkable adaptation, triggering rapid regrowth after bushfires or significant damage caused by insects, animal grazing, droughts or even floods.

The Bible teaches that regeneration is a spiritual rebirth and transformation that is initiated by God. The Apostle Paul wrote to one of the Churches saying "that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" This reminds us of the idea that regeneration brings about a fundamental change in a person's nature and identity. It gives to us hope... particularly if we have been hurt or damaged by what life has thrown our way.

In Jesus we are made new - we are new creations in Him. The old has gone... and the new has come. Regeneration is not something that we can do ourselves... but it is the work of God alone. The imagery of birth helps explain this point. Through birth a new life comes into this world. But it is silly to think that the infant deserves the credit for doing the work - the infant is reliant on the activity of the mother or those assisting in the birthing process.

Much more so **in spiritual birth... regeneration is the work of God and God alone!** In the words of Jesus himself, he reminds us that he has come that we might have "Life in all its Fullness". God created us and the whole of his creation to flourish in the way he designed us to be.

This new identity is a game changer! It completely changes our relationship with God and each other, just as it changes the way we see the world. Our new identity in Jesus means we have the same relationship with God that Jesus has - that being... God has adopted us as his children. We are able to call Him "Abba! Father!"

So wherever you find yourself in life, it is my prayer that you might experience the regeneration that only Christ can bring in you. That you would know that you are fearfully and wonderfully made, created in the image of God.

By the Moderator - Rev Bruce Moore (Uniting News 24.9.24)

Our Name, Our Calling.

"Holy Father, keep them safe by the power of your name. It is the name you gave me. Keep them safe so they can be one, just as you and I are one."
(John 17.11 NIRV).

These words were spoken by Jesus the night before He died, as He prayed for us to His Heavenly Father (John 17). Five times He expressed His desire for our unity – not only a unity of the original apostles – but also of all who have followed in their footsteps, generation by generation.

Our Church

Our primary purpose is to fulfil our calling ...

The calling of exhibiting the character of Jesus, a spirit of humility, love, and unity, coupled with resurrection power, proving that the church is truly 'The Body of Christ' inhabited by God Himself!

~ from *Uniting 4570's Operational Guidelines* ~



UNITING 4570
Better together

Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Live-streaming... Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

Contact Us

Church Office... M: 0493 442 250 P: (07) 5482 2985 E: cherylie@gruc.org
www.gruc.org.au F: www.facebook.com/guchurch

Office Hours... Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

Pastoral Care... Please contact the office by phone or email.

- Need the services of a Justice of The Peace? ... Glenda 0418 187 698
- Need help with your computer? ... Mike 0403 271 413
- Need a lift to church? ... Jill 0421 333 538
- Need prayer? ... call the church office 0493 442 250

Offering and Attendance Last Week

Attendance: Adults 75 • Children 0 • No livestreamed message last week
Total Week's Offering: \$ 1,822.00 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.
Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101 (Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', 'Shoebboxes', etc. Thank you).