



Cults Parish Church



APRIL 2009

Dear Friends,

How peculiar are the games people play with language these days. Especially our leaders, and wanna-be leaders. The Tories are having a stushie right now because Kenneth Clarke has said that their intention to scrap or limit Inheritance Tax is simply an "aspirational" policy, as opposed to a "commitment". Translated, that means it's never-never land, as opposed to possibly/might/could be/depends on the alignment of the planets etc...

But pause for a moment. That word "aspirational". It's being used here to mean "when hell freezes over". In short the word is being hijacked, corrupted and bankrupted in the never-ending game of political manoeuvring.

Shame. Because "aspirational" is a great word. Kirk congregations are, should be, must be aspirational. The people of Cults Kirk are a people who aspire to great things, the greatest of things love and justice, forgiveness and reconciliation. If you want to put conditions and restrictions on that word, dilute "aspirational" to mean "sometime never", then best quit the church; because the Gospel that this and every church proclaims "aspires" to those very characteristics.

We aspire to love and justice, to forgiveness and reconciliation. Meaning, it is our genuine desire to reflect those qualities in our private lives and in our life as a congregation. At times, we will, individually and collectively, fall embarrassingly short. Your life. my life. *unfortunately show at times a distinct lack of love, a profound and pathetic desire NOT to exercise any forgiveness whatsoever in this or that particular situation.*

And when that happens. When it is painfully obvious that we have not come anywhere close to our aspirations. ... I guess that's when Grace steps in. That's how Grace works. We fall flat on our face. Failed. Flawed. Compromised. But courtesy of the Holy Spirit, we're hauled back up, dusted down, and sent on our way again. To aspire, to dare to be different, to dare to love this world in such a way that the world pauses for a moment and says "Why?"

And the answer to the "Why" is Jesus Christ, the Risen Christ, the Christ whose resurrection we will celebrate on Easter morning. When jealousy and evil and pettiness and greed and envy and malice had done their worst when those malevolent legions had combined to put Jesus on the Cross and in his grave, ... Christ's resurrection on Easter morning is God's glorious and defiant way of saying that heaven's aspirations for humankind have been turned into a commitment. Jesus died. Jesus rose. Love triumphs. I can't think of anything better than to try to aspire to that kind of love. And I have, we have, Grace on our side!



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