

The mission-minded church works as a T E A M



3. Accepting one another

God's attitude to us

"For God so loved the world ..."

(John 3:16)

"God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world."

(John 3:17)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

God's attitude to us

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him.”

John 13:3-5

God's attitude to us

'This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.'

(Luke 15:2)

"There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent."

(Luke 15:7)

God's attitude to us

Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'
(John 8:11)



Grasping the truth

“ ‘Do you understand what I have done for you?’ he asked them.”

(John 13:12)

“Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

(John 8:7)

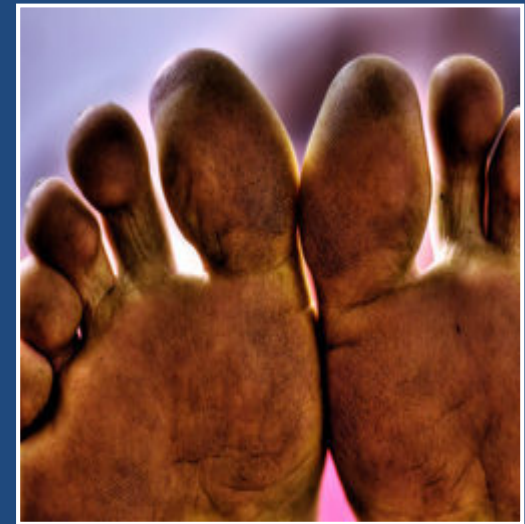
“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”

(Philippians 2:5-8)

Our attitude to others

*“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”
(John 13:14)*

*Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.
(Romans 15:7)*



Our attitude to others

“As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

(Colossians 3:12-14)

Acceptance is enabling

We are God's gift to each other

We are God's gift to the world

God's gift to each other

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

God's gift to the World



“Inhabiting Greek as well as barbarian cities ... and following the customs of the natives in respect to clothing, food, and the rest of their ordinary conduct, they display to us their wonderful and confessedly striking method of life.”
(Epistle to Diognetes c AD 130)

God's gift to the World

“They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh.

They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives.

They love all men and are persecuted by all.

They are reviled and bless; they are insulted and repay the insult with honour; they do good yet are punished as evildoers.”

God's gift to the World



“To sum it all up in one word - what the soul is to the body, that are Christians in the world.”

(Epistle to Diognetes c AD 130)

God's gift to the World



“It is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. See, they say, how they love one another”

(Tertullian AD197)

God's gift to the World

“Christianity served as a revitalization movement that arose in response to the misery, chaos, fear, and brutality of life in the urban Greco-Roman world...

To cities filled with the homeless and impoverished, Christianity offered charity as well as hope. To cities filled with newcomers as well as strangers, Christianity offered an immediate basis for attachments.”

God's gift to the World

“To cities filled with orphans and widows, Christianity provided a new and expanded sense of family.

For what they brought was not simply an urban movement, but a new culture capable of making life in Greco-Roman cities more tolerable.”

(Rodney Stark – The Rise of Christianity)

“Tolerance” isn’t enough



“Acceptance” changes lives

