**Small Groups @ TBC**

**Sermon Discussion Notes**

**Date of Sermon:** 25/01/15

**Speaker:** Paul Ferguson

**Title:** Love your Neighbour

**Introduction:**

This was the final sermon in the mini series about the church’s vision. Our vision simply stated says this: Love for God, Love for One Another and Love for Neighbour (locally and globally). This huge but transformative vision should inform every aspect of our community life as we seek to fulfill God’s purposes for us. The third ‘plank’ of our vision is to Love Neighbour as self. Jesus’ teaching on this is perhaps some of his most challenging as he includes even ones enemies in the category of those whom we should seek to love.

**Review:** (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

Jesus told a parable in response to question from a Lawyer, “Who is my neighbour?” The Lawyer’s questions weren’t genuine, he was intent on tripping Jesus up. In response to the question Jesus told a shocking story. A stricken man (presumably Jewish), two religious leaders and one reviled Samaritan. The shock is this: the Samaritan rescued the beaten-up man against every social, religious, racial, stereotypical protocol. This is true neighbourliness according to Jesus. He calls his followers to love their neighbours (defined by this parable as anyone in need) even if their neighbour happened to be their enemies.

**Read:**

Luke 10: 25-37

**Reflect:**

What did you find encouraging from listening to this talk?

What has been the thought that has remained?

Is there a particular verse or phase from the reading that speaks to you?

Why do you think the Levite and Priest were so disinterested?

What part does the busyness of church life and everyday life impede our ability to reach out to other?

Loving enemies is very challenging, what does it and doesn’t it mean for you?

**Respond:**

**Love for God:** What does this parable tell us about God’s love? St Augustine’s highly allegorized interpretation of the parable names Jesus as the Samaritan, what would this picture reveal to us about Jesus were it so?

**Love for one another:** Scripture encourages us to: ‘spur one another onto love and good deeds’ (Heb 10: 24). As a loving action how might we encourage one another to love as the Samaritan did?

**Love for Neighbour & World:** Who needs your mercy this week, even if you have to slow down from your hurry to show it? Who do you need to recognise as your neighbour, whom you may have ignored or even despise?

**And finally:**

* What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
* How can we pray for you?
* Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?