

Practicing Loving Our Neighbours

Seven points to remember

1. Make it our goal to live at peace with others
 - *"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)*
 - *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no-one will see the Lord. (Heb 12:14)*
 - *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Rom 12:18)*
2. Treat others as you would have them treat you
 - *So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (Mat 7:12)*
3. Pray for enemies as well as friends (pray for God to change their hearts)
 - *"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Mat 5:43,44)*
4. Guard your tongue and don't say hurtful things – build up don't put down
 - *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Eph 4:29)*
5. Never repay evil with evil – avoid revenge
 - *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (Ro 12:17-19)*
6. Let go of the past
 - *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (Jo 8:36)*
 - *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Ga 5:1)*
7. Practice the transforming power of forgiveness
 - *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Co 3:13)*