



A NEW THING

A New Command: Safe Church Sunday

Talk summary:

God prepares His people by giving them a new commandment – to love one another as He has loved them

**Key Verse: John 13 31-35;
(Proverbs 31 8,9; Ephesians 5 8-13; Isaiah 53 6)**

Key points:

1. God wants our Church communities to display a love that is respectful of others, where all can feel safe, and where all can belong
2. Protecting others is at the heart of the Christian community. God calls us to stand up for the vulnerable.
3. The light of Christ will shine on the darkness and expose wrongdoing. Changing attitudes mean that more of what has been hidden in terms of abuse is being exposed and this is a positive thing.
4. In a fallen world, we are learning more about what we can do to protect people from being mistreated and a series of safeguarding practices have been developed.
5. We should see safeguarding as the practical outworking of Scripture and an expression of our love for one another.

Questions:

Conversation Starter

- When you hear the word safeguarding, how do you react?
- When did you feel vulnerable?
- What were you thinking, feeling and doing?

- How is safeguarding grounded in scripture?
- How is the way in which we treat each other in love linked in to safeguarding?
- Can you think of more and less serious examples of abuse?
- Do you know how to raise any safeguarding concerns in Springfield? (Please can we have feedback on this answer)
- Why is it important to raise concerns?

What might God be saying to me about this theme/situation?

What have I learnt that I want to hold on to?

How am I going to put it into practice?

- What else do you think we could be doing to keep everyone safe in Church? (Please can we have feedback on this answer)