

WE ARE

THE PEOPLE

OF GOD



*“To bring the life of Jesus
and His kingdom wherever we are”*

Ezekiel 47:9



“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48

The Bible is above all a story



The Bible is above all a story

It is a story of

- God's love
- Our stubbornness
- God teaching us to love
 - Eden – “We don't love you!”
 - Abraham – “I love you”
 - Israel – “Love your neighbour”
 - Jesus – “Love your enemy”



Love your enemy



Love has no favourites

- Father loves the wicked and the good

Matthew 5:45

- God loves the world – John 3:16
- God wants to save everyone – 1 Timothy 2:4
- God's chosen people
 - Serve others
 - Reveal God's love
 - Lay down their lives



But you are
his
favourite!

The end of the story is love

- “Love one another” – John 13:34-35
- Love sums up the Old Testament – Matt 22:35-40
- “If I have not love, I am nothing” 1 Cor 13:2
- “God is love” – 1 John 4:8, 16
- “She who dwells in love, dwells in God and God dwells in her” 1 John 4:16

“To love another person is to see the face of God” – Les Miserables





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What is love?

“Love suffers long and is kind”

1 Corinthians 13:4

Love is practical – 1 John 3:18

Love transforms us – Ephesians 3:14-21



The reason for River Church

We are the people of God, but what does that mean? Not that he's chosen us instead of others, but to reach others. Not that we're saved and everyone else isn't, but that he's called us to a mission and given us a job to do. That mission is filling creation with life! Jesus is bringing salvation to the world, a salvation we are already experiencing. Now he calls us his partners and has given us a part to play in accomplishing that great task.

