



# Being Together..

## **1 EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY**

Jesus told us to love one another as he loves us. As Christians we know our life together is strengthened when our behavior is consistent with our faith. However, our experience of being together can be difficult, particularly when there are differences. So, it is important to be clear about how we will behave towards each other.

## **2 BEING A COMMUNITY**

2.1 We will value the wellbeing and safety of others, particularly children and other vulnerable people

2.2 We will encourage each other to participate in the life of the church

2.3 We will consider the impact of our behavior on others.

### **3 RELATING TO EACH OTHER**

3.1 We will guard the safety of all, especially children and other vulnerable people.

3.2 We will treat each other with respect and dignity, irrespective of ability, gender, sexuality, race, age or contribution to the church.

3.3 We will act with integrity and honesty in our interactions with each other.

### **4 COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER**

4.1 We will communicate respectfully with others, and not in a way that threatens, belittles or humiliates.

4.2 We will speak with integrity and honesty, and refrain from speculation and gossip

### **5 ACKNOWLEDGING DIFFERENCE**

5.1 We will respect those who are different from us as not isolate or ridicule them.

5.2 We will listen to and seek to understand the beliefs, opinions and practices of others, even when we do not share their views.

### **6 RESPONDING TO CONFLICT**

6.1 We will accept responsibility for our part in a conflict.

6.2 We will be willing to play our part in resolving conflict.

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## Bible Verses About Loving Animals

Experiencing the love of God's creation, especially through animals, is a beautiful part of our faith. The Bible offers guidance on how to treat and care for animals with compassion and kindness.

### **Genesis 1:20-21**

*"And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."*

### **Proverbs 12:10**

*"Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel."*

### **Job 12:7-10**

*"But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."*

### **Psalms 104:24-25**

*"O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great."*

### **Matthew 6:26**

*"Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*

### **Psalms 50:10-11**

*"For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine."*

### **Psalms 36:6**

*"Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O Lord."*

### **Isaiah 11:6-9**

*"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."*

### **Luke 12:6**

*"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God."*

### **Numbers 22:28**

*"Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"*

### **Exodus 23:12**

*"Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed."*

**Deuteronomy 22:6-7**

*"If you come across a bird's nest in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs and the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young. You shall let the mother go, but the young you may take for yourself, that it may go well with you, and that you may live long."*

**Jonah 4:11**

*"And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"*

**Exodus 20:10**

*"But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates."*

**Psalm 145:9**

*"The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made."*

**Deuteronomy 25:4**

*"You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain."*

**Romans 8:19-21**

*"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God."*

**Proverbs 27:23**

*"Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds."*

**Genesis 9:9-10**

*"Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth."*

**Psalm 147:9**

*"He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry."*

**Isaiah 65:25**

*"The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord."*

**Joel 1:20**

*"Even the beasts of the field pant for you because the water brooks are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness."*

**Psalm 8:6-8**

*"You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas."*

**Hosea 2:18**

*"And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety."*

**Leviticus 22:27-28**

*"When an ox or sheep or goat is born, it shall remain seven days with its mother, and from the eighth day on it shall be acceptable as a food offering to the Lord. But you shall not kill an ox or a sheep and her young in one day."*

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