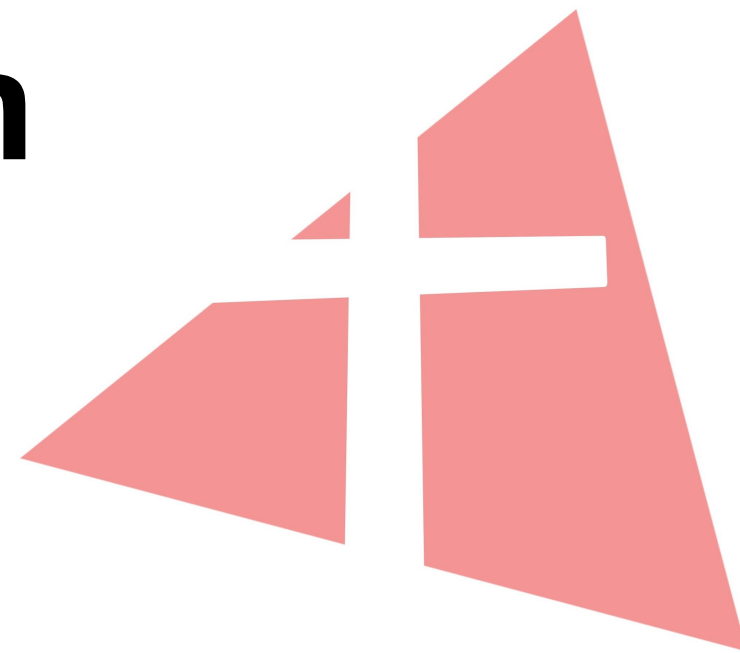


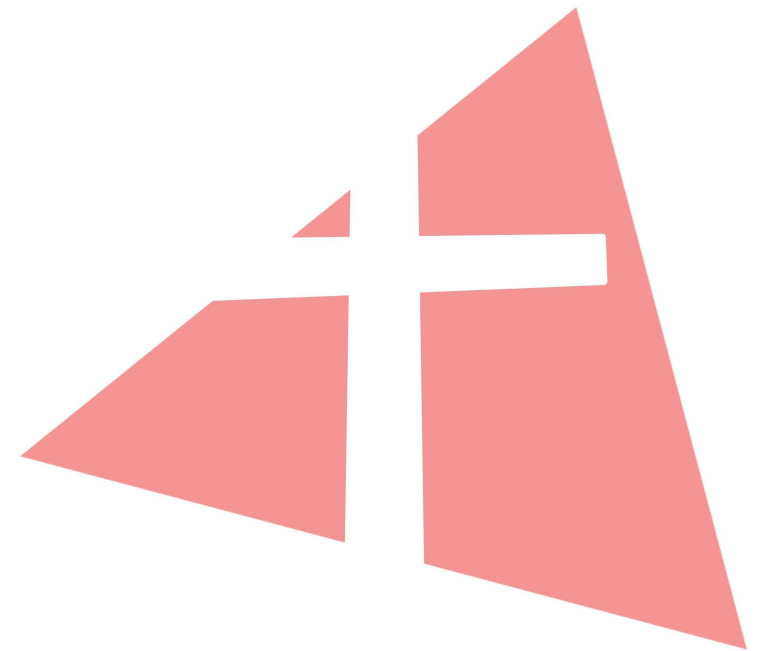
Love requires action

September 22nd 2019



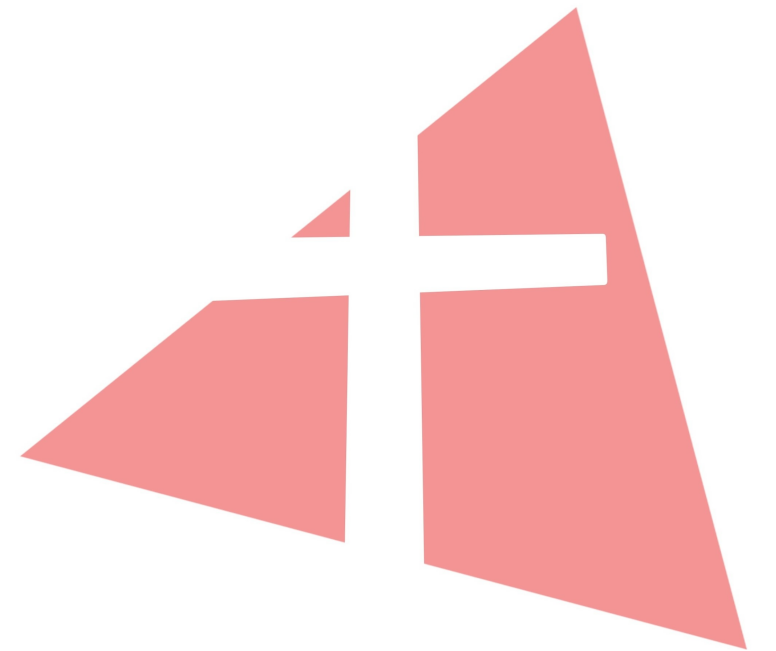
Disclaimer ... before we get started

- I don't usually do public speaking
- Why am I here today?
 - Hidden sin in one area of my life



Baseline / Context

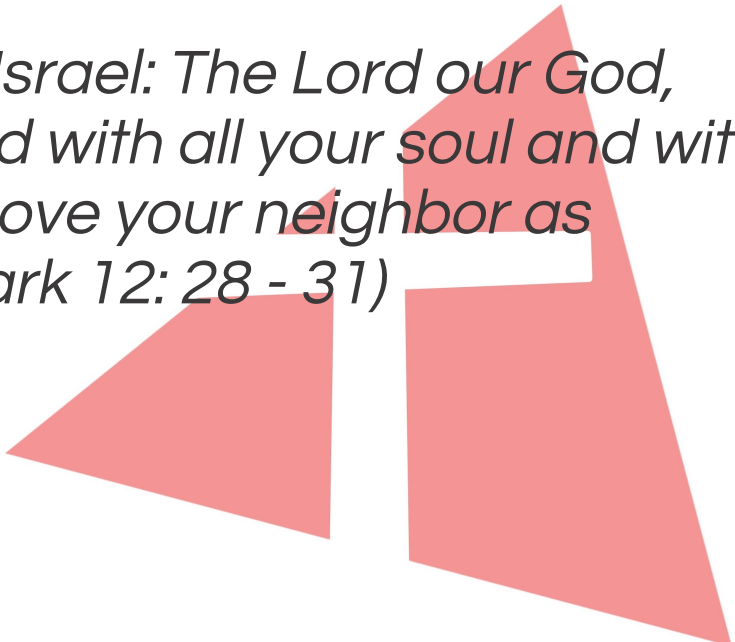
- ❑ Christ centered community
- ❑ Relationships
- ❑ I am not doing my part well



Jesus sums up the mosaic law

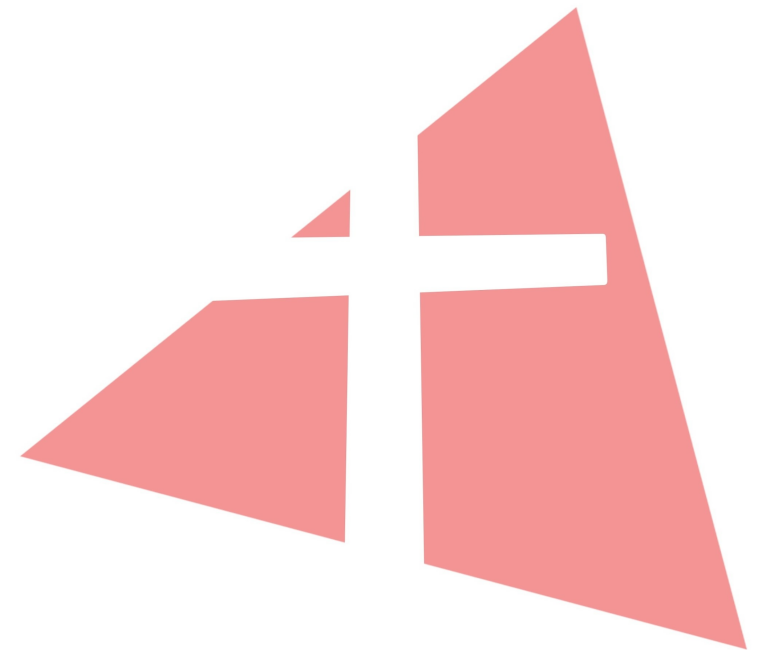
One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12: 28 - 31)



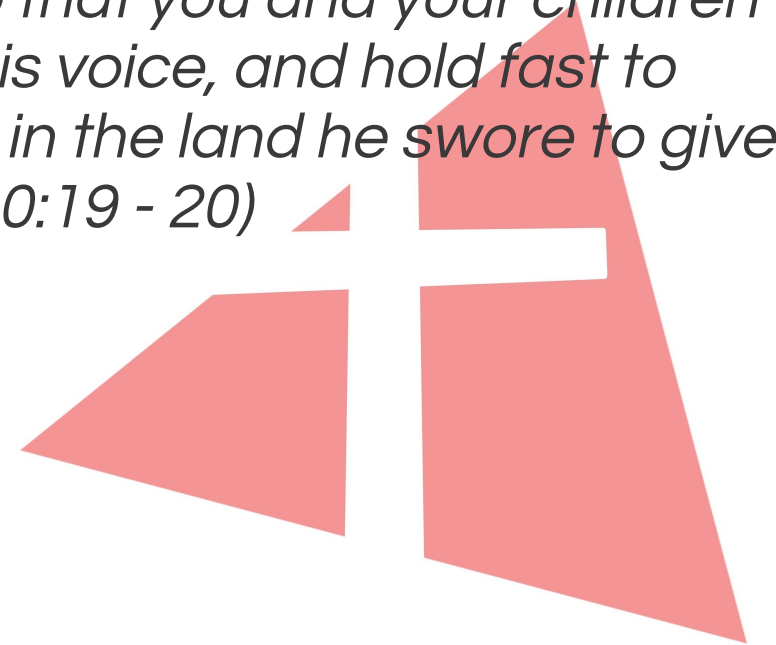
Aspect one: Choice

- **Love is not purely an emotion. Love involves a choice.**
 - I choose to love my wife
 - I choose to love my children
 - I choose to love God



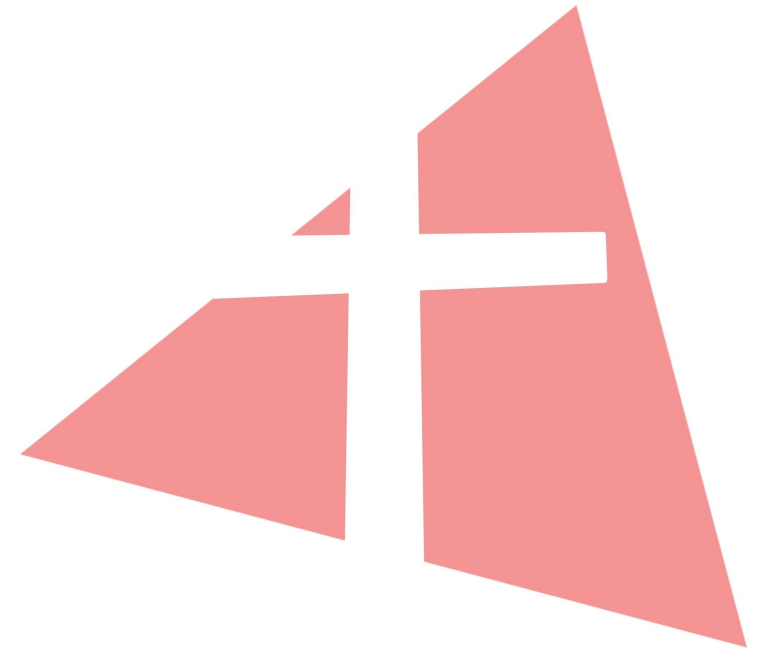
Aspect one: Choice

*This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. **Now choose life**, so that you and your children may live and **that you may love the Lord your God**, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (Deuteronomy 30:19 - 20)*



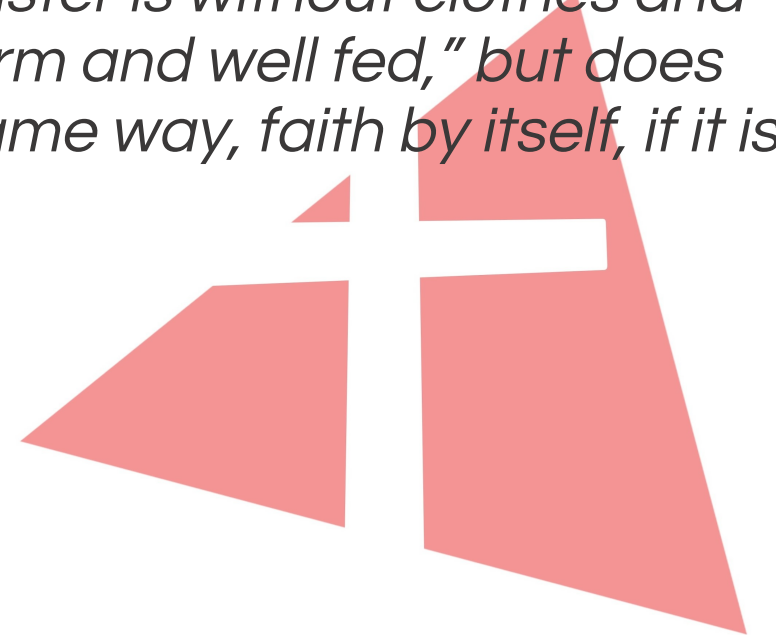
Aspect two: Action

- Love requires Action



Aspect two: Action

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:14 - 17)

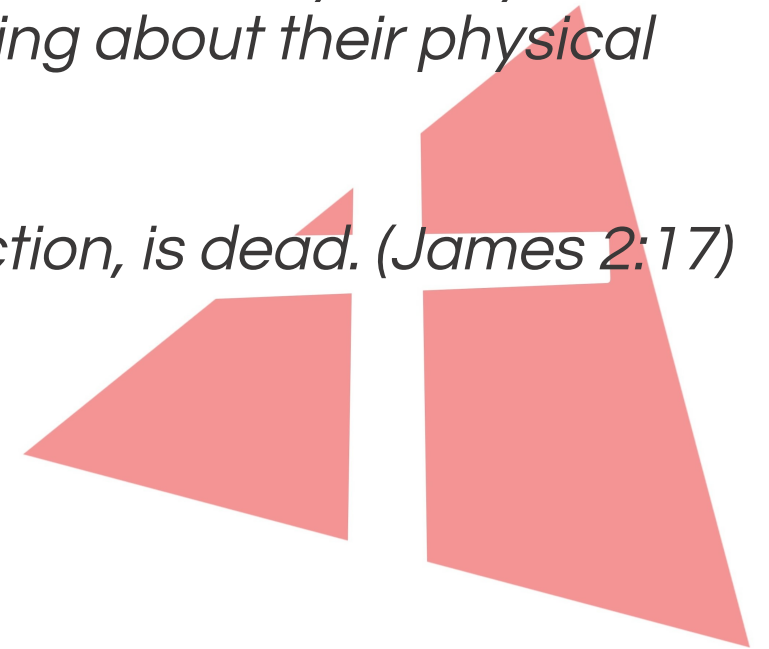


Aspect two: Action

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? (James 2:14)

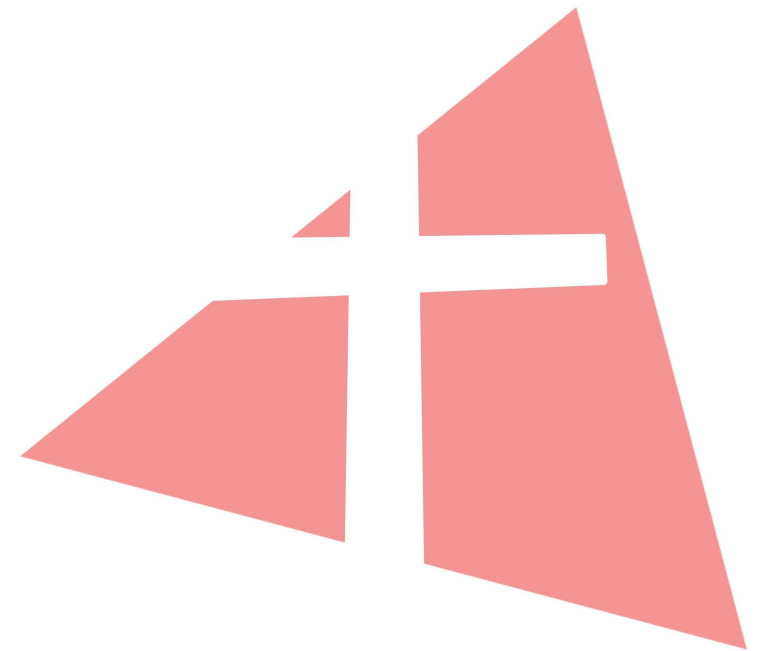
***Suppose** a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, **what good is it?** (James 2:15 - 16)*

***In the same way,** faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:17)*



Jesus Summary of the Law

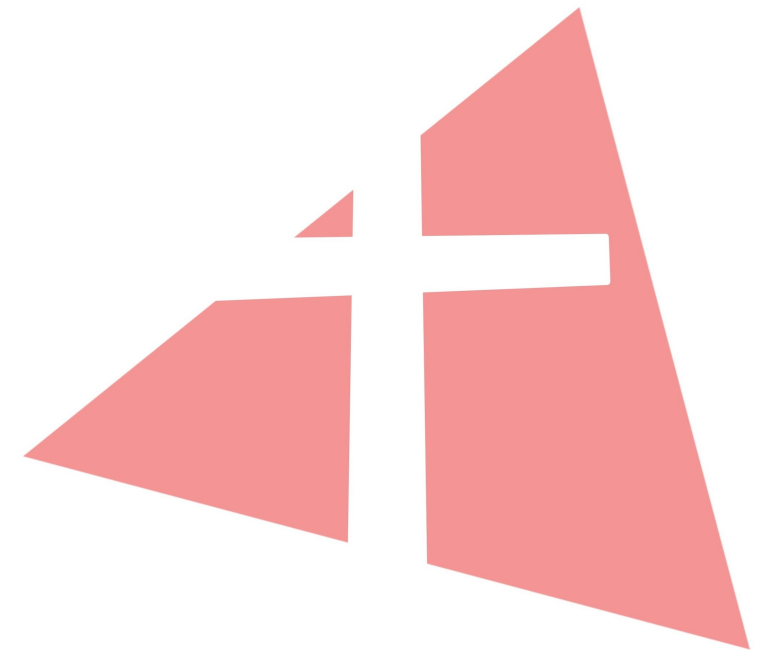
- Love God
- Love your neighbour like yourself



Love God

- **We talked in previous sermons about**
 - God's character
 - How to relate to God
 - God's love for us

We love him, because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

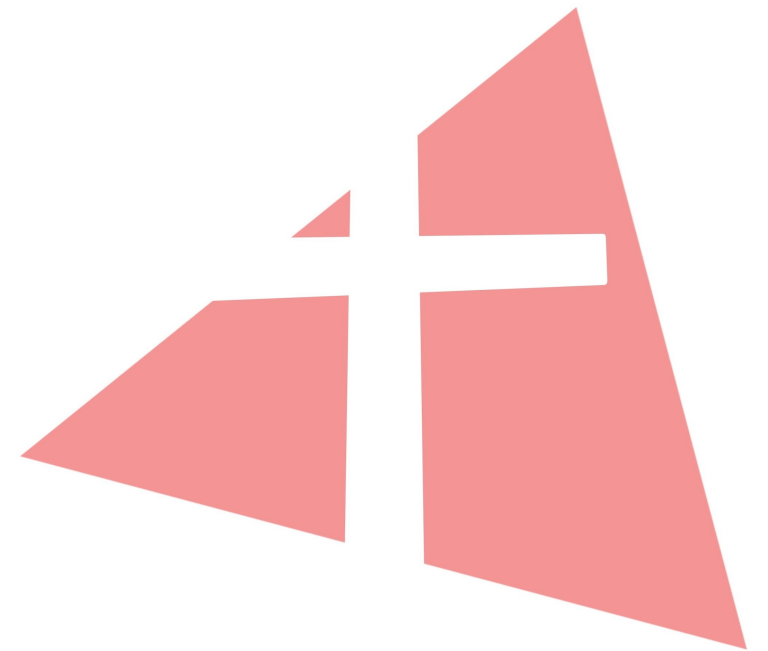


Love one another

*[...] Love your neighbor **as yourself** [...] (Mark 12: 31)*

□ How do you love yourself?

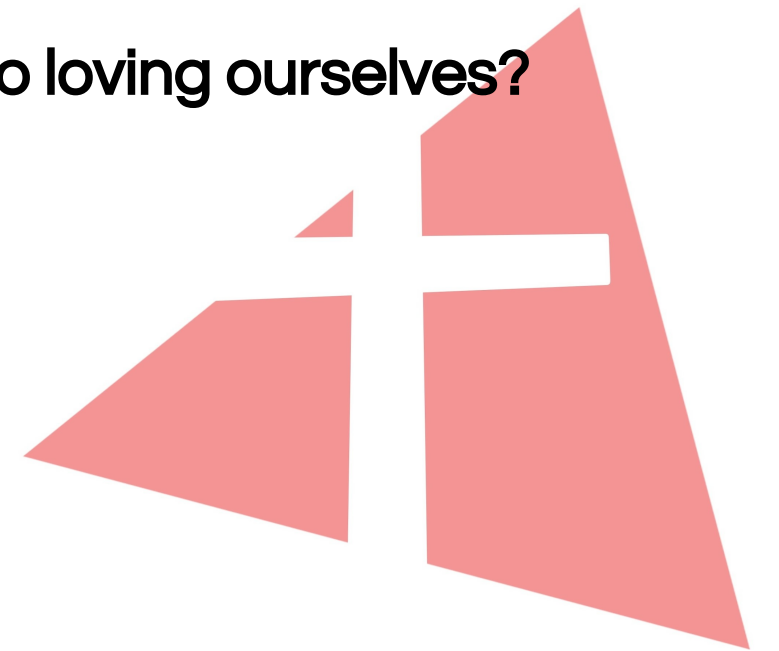
- Comes naturally to many of us
- Culture of “what is best for me”



Love one another

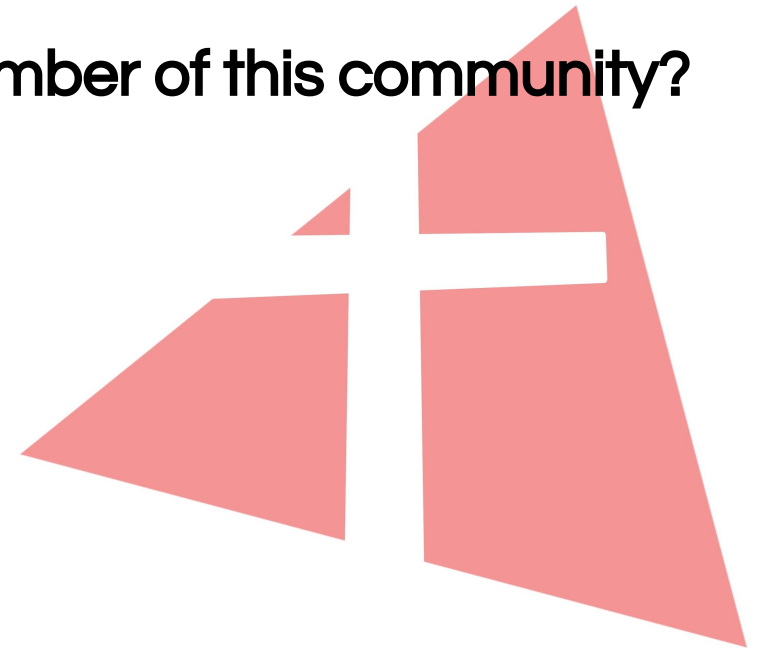
[...] Love your neighbor as yourself [...] (Mark 12: 31)

- **Do we put the same effort into loving other than we put into loving ourselves?**
 - Choice ?
 - Action ?



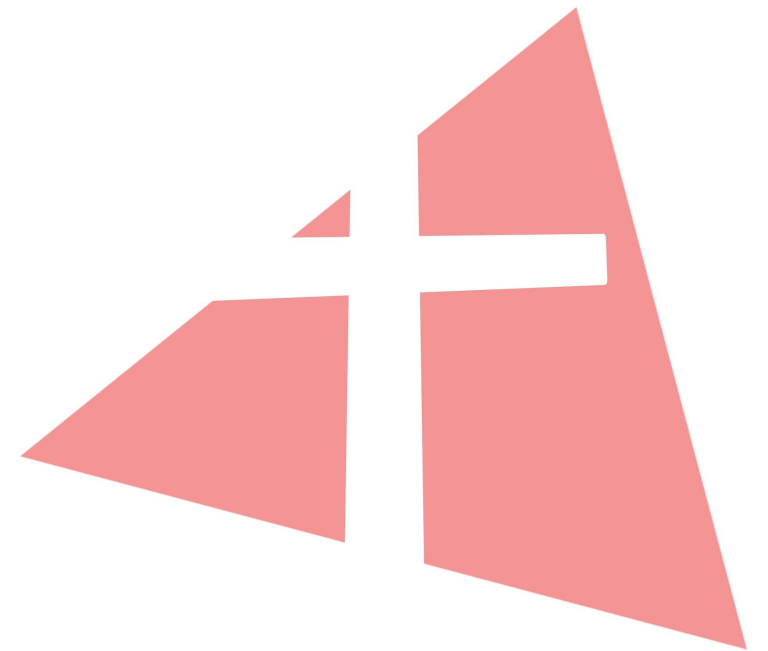
Application

- ❑ **Do you feel loved by the members of this community?**
- ❑ **How do you express (with what actions) your love for a member of this community?**
- ❑ **Marriage Example**



Application

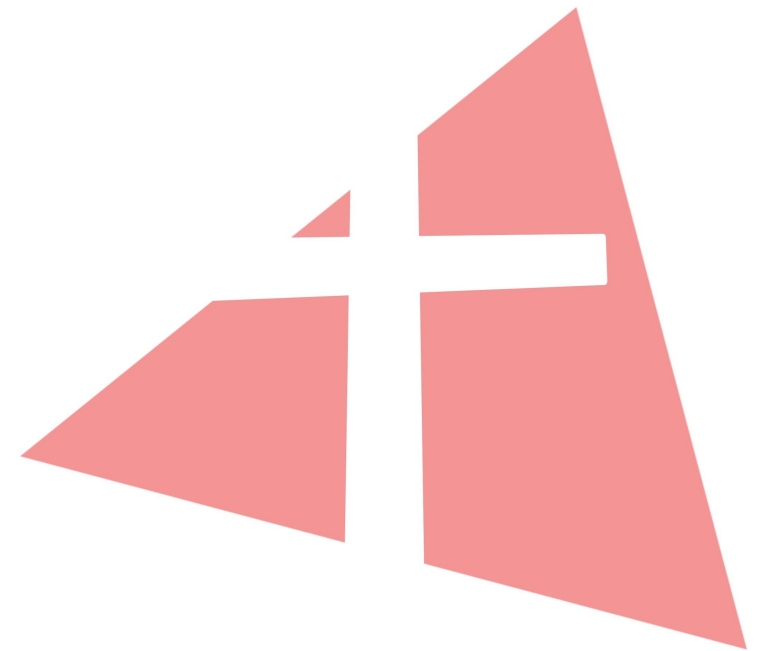
- **Then how about our Church community?**
 - Choose to love an individual
 - Act



Encouragement

▣ Three encouragements:

- Sounds like a sacrifice but can be very rewarding
- Its a two way street.
- You can be God's love for someone else.



In conclusion

*For God **so** loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

- ❑ **The word “so” here means “in the same way”.**
- ❑ **God demonstrates this principle “Love requires action” and I believe we ought to follow**

