

Gathering to Jesus

To Worship; to Fellowship; to Connect



Our mission:

Going with Jesus to share Good News

Gathering to Jesus to Worship and Celebrate

Growing in Jesus in Relationship Together

GATHER

"For where two or three
gather in my name,
there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20

GATHER

Prayer

Lord, may I be a disciple who loves to
Gather with your church.
Help us to be **centred** on Jesus and
committed to one another.
Help us to **connect** with our
community, sharing Jesus with those
around us.
Help me to fully play my part for your
glory.

Amen



Applying our mission through Values and Actions

Values:

We are Centred on Jesus

We are Committed to one another

We are Connected to our community





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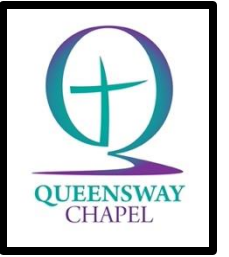
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Really Love Them



Romans 12:9-16

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.

11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.

12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

...



Really Love Them



...

13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

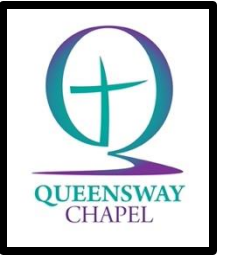
14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.



Really Love Them



Romans 12 v9

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

What do you spend your time / energy / money on?

Do we start strong, but get distracted?

Do we recognise GOOD from EVIL?

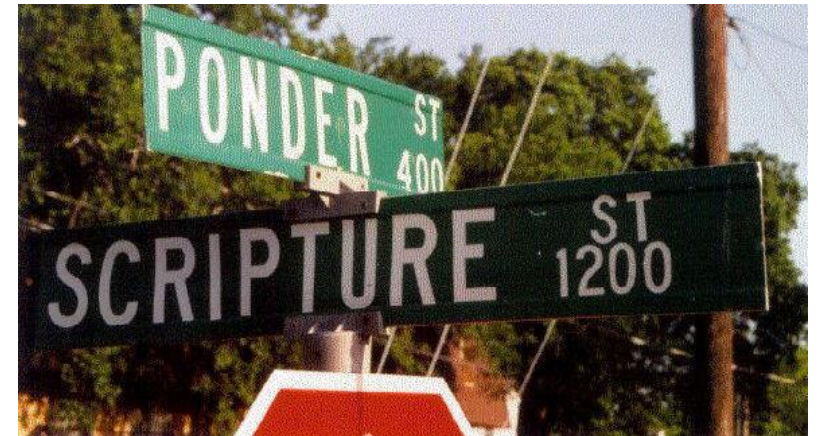


Truly meaning it

Commitment

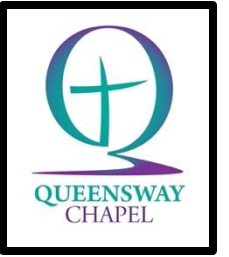
Test against Scripture

Ask for peace/guidance from the Holy Spirit





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Romans 12 v10

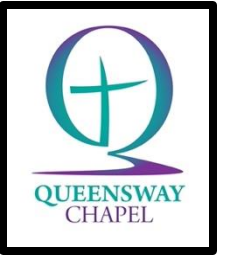
Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.

Story of Ruth & Naomi





Really Love Them



Romans 12 v11

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.

Zeal?

Fervour?



Really Love Them



Romans 12 v11

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.

Zeal – great energy / enthusiasm

Fervour – having an intense & passionate feeling



...so... Love (serve) with great energy, intensely and passionately!



Really Love Them



Romans 12 v14, 15

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Easy to bless friends? Harder to bless enemies?

What is blessing?

Truly bless, or just lip-service?

What is cursing? Is it ever right to do?

Put yourself aside and give your full attention

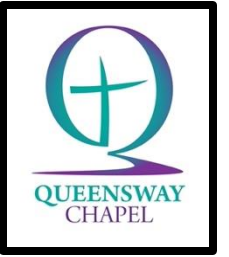
Bless – encourages

Curse – calls down evil/harm





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Romans 12 v16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

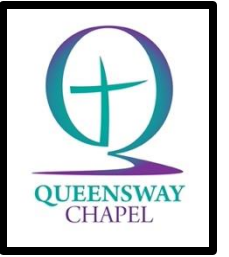
Always agree?

**ALL PERSONS
AUTHORIZED**

Gentle explanation/testimony rather than dictate.
Don't look down upon – there are many hierarchies!



Really Love Them



Who is 'Them'?

James 1 v27

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



Orphans, widows... anyone in need (Christian or otherwise)

Psalm 68 v5

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows... God places the lonely into families, he leads out the prisoners with singing



Really Love Them



Biblical 'Love'

1 Corinthians 13 v4-7

It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.



Love... genuine heart-felt, deep care



Really Love Them



How many people can we love?

We can plant the seed / set the ball rolling
God's responsibility to grow it

... mother Teresa

Sacrificial
Requires devotion





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How to give someone your time

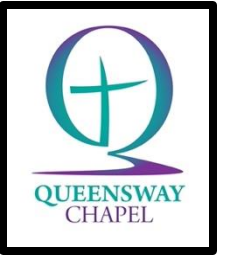
‘One of the strategies I employ is to block enough time so that I’m not thinking of what I have to do next. I find it best to wait until I can invest more than a few minutes in being with someone so that the person is not frustrated with my divided attention and tight schedule.’ If you keep robbing your loved ones of time, there may come a day when they have no time for you. Ask yourself, ‘Is this person worth more to me than the plan, project, problem, or pressure I’m dealing with?’ Learn to enjoy the moment and focus on the person you’re with. Ask open-ended questions that encourage them to answer with more than a yes or no. Listen carefully and ask additional questions. This helps people feel you are engaging with them and caring about their replies. Yes, your thoughts may flit into the future for a few seconds, but instantly push them back into the present by rejecting those concerns. You can attend to them later. Concentrate, concentrate, concentrate. There is great pleasure in doing this after you get used to it.’



from UCB Word For Today



Really Love Them



The Challenge

Be committed to meeting each other's needs
Don't just hear, but support by action
Give us some of yourself to meet your neighbour's need

The ultimate example of meeting a need ...

... Jesus on the Cross

