

### 3 Small Steps – One Another

I was recently making a mental list of what God has entrusted to us, in order to consider how we could use it for his glory. My first thoughts were, “his word” and “the gospel”, when the words “one another” popped into my head. How generous are we when it comes to caring for one another? Do we go the extra mile? An initial response may be, “Of course I care for my brothers and sisters in Christ!” Philippians 2:2 is rather more challenging and these **3 small steps** based on that scripture, demonstrate how we can walk in God’s ways and reflect his generous nature.

**Step 1: Agree with one another.** If you have been in church for longer than five minutes, you will have found someone you disagree with! There are as many different views and opinions as there are people, which can easily make for contentions over everything from hassocks to hymns. So how do we “agree”? I once worked with a girl, whose Christian faith was expressed in a markedly different way to mine. For starters, she worshipped on a different day of the week and believed that meat was forbidden. As an onlooker, our line manager was perplexed at our close relationship based on our faith. “How can you agree, when you disagree on so many aspects? And who is right?”, he would ask. We would joyfully respond that we agreed on what really mattered – Jesus Christ. Focus on him as the author and finisher of your faith and you will find much to agree on.

**Step 2: Love one another.** Even the disciples found this command hard, so don’t imagine it will be any easier for you! Its outworking will be such a witness to a watching world as Jesus said, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35). It is said we can pick and choose our friends but not our family and our Christian family is no different. We don’t get to pick and choose which ones to love or not. Generous love prefers one another, producing humility; it goes the extra mile and forgives quickly; it displays the same love for others as Jesus has for us. Wow. We all have work to do on that one.

**Step 3: Work together with one another.** If steps one and two are in place, step three becomes a possibility. I wonder how many God-inspired projects have faltered, been shelved or never got off the ground due to personality conflict? Conversely, many who have set their selfish ways aside to find a common purpose to bring glory to God, have been rewarded with experiencing the joy of growth and fruitfulness. As you seek God’s vision for your church, be willing to lay aside your burning desire and run with someone else’s, trusting that God will bring to fulfilment in his time, all that he has placed within your heart.

We have the privilege of witnessing the unity of purpose present in some churches involved in the match-funded Give To Go Green campaign and we pray that as you work together in unity and with generous love for one another, that God himself will more than match the work of your hands. Amen!