

Sermon Notes
22nd October 2017
**Being Church:
Loving and being
merciful**



Summary of last week: Jesus breaks down the dividing walls between us and unites diverse people together within the church.

Introduction: One way that we can hold diversity is through God's love shown to us and the love we show to one another. Hallmark of discipleship and thus being church is showing love: 'by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' John 13:35.

Compassion and comfort comes from God.

- 'Father of compassion and the God of all comfort.' 2 Corinthians 1:3. God truly understands.
- What troubles do you face? In our physical pains we can know God as healer (Exodus 15:26).
- In our emotional and mental pains – God can comfort with His love. Hold onto and pray into those pains e.g. 'perfect love casts out all fear.' 1 John 4: 8.
- God can also use others to help us in our troubles – they are a gift from God for the situation.

We are comforted so we can comfort others.

- 'We can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.' 2 Corinthians 1:4.
- Comfort in 'any' trouble – big claim. So, what does that mean?
- Not the same as saying we understand their feelings because we've been there – we all feel things differently.
- Rather it is being authentic about our troubles, and the comfort we have received from God.
- It is through the testimony of God's working in us that we can comfort others – drawing strength found in Christ's suffering.
- As we do this with one another we are being church.

Your notes

Written by Rev. Lucy Wright, October 2017.