



**One in Christ:  
United to each other**

**Fifth talk:  
Love one another**

Love is...



7/7

*...real, when so much else  
is fake.*

Love is...



7/28

*...giving, without giving in.*



## Love and friendship

**Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. [John 15.13]**

## Love and friendship

- Don't start with the conditional 'if' – remember: Jesus calls his disciples friends rather than servants.
- Friendship is about sharing: 'everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.'
- ...and shared experience.
- Friendship is limitless (R & T);
- Friendship is inclusive (unlike Aelred of Rievaulx);
- Friendship is non-hierarchical (unlike many school playgrounds).

## Love and friendship

- **Friendship is godly intimacy;**
- **Friendship is living life the way it was intended – connected, among an epidemic of loneliness;**
- **Friendships (even on Facebook!) are a sign or sacrament of the character of God and the nature of the unity of the church;**
- **Billy Stone's story.**

## Love and sacrifice

**“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”**

**The story of Dirk Willems (1569):** The burgomaster of Asperen hired a thief-catcher to capture Dirk. Dirk’s flight took him to a frozen stream, which he began to cross. The thief-catcher hesitated but followed after him. Being a heavily built man, however, he broke through the ice and was forced to cry for help from the only person available – the man he was pursuing. One can only imagine the thoughts that crossed Dirk’s mind, but ultimately the thought that prevailed was Jesus’ command: “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matt. 5:44). Dirk turned back and rescued the thief-catcher.

## Love and sacrifice: love your enemies

When they reached the shore, the thief-catcher would have released Dirk in gratitude, but the burgomaster, having caught up to them, insisted on taking Dirk back to prison. There Dirk remained until the day of his execution, May 16, 1569. He was tied to the stake, and the fire was lit.

*And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*



# Love and sacrifice



## Love and sacrifice

**The mundanity of sacrifice: J & the tramp.**

**We cannot give away what we do not have; we will not give away what we cannot do without; so we give ourselves away instead.**

## Love and sacrifice

**‘Take up your cross, and do not be afraid.’**

**“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” [John 16.33]**

## Love and prayer

- The intimacy of care
- The shared experience of each other: “But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.” [1 Corinthians 12.25-26]
- Referred pain is when the pain you feel in one part of your body is actually caused by pain or injury in another part of your body. For example, an injured pancreas could be causing pain in your back, or a heart attack could be triggering pain in your jaw. [www.healthline.com]

## Love and prayer

- When you love enough to ‘carry it to the Lord in prayer’: Evelyn’s grandmother;
- Keeping ‘in touch’ with the rest of the body;
- Working at relationships;
- Building the church’s life of prayer.