

## How do we honour one another?

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together)

### • Listen to each other

"The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in just listening to them. Just as love to God begins with listening to his Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them."

He goes on: "Many people are looking for an ear that will listen to them. They do not find it among Christians, because these Christians are talking where they should be listening."

He says, "There is a kind of listening with half an ear that presumes already to know what the other person has to say. It is an impatient, inattentive listening, that despises the brother and is only waiting for a chance to speak and so get rid of the other person." (pp.75-76)

### • Help each other

"Nobody is too good for the meanest service... We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will be constantly crossing our paths and cancelling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." (p.76)

### • Bear with each other

**Matthew 18:10-14**

**Sunday, 21st January '24**

## Intro

## Matthew 18

- a little child
- vv5-9
- vv10-14

## **1. Don't look down on your fellow believer...**

- 'one of these little ones'

## **2. ... because every believer is precious to God**

### **2 illustrations:**

#### **• v10**

Angels are "ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation" (Hebrews 1:14)

#### **• vv12-14**

Luke 15

#### **• Notice how gracious God is**

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love  
(Come Thou fount of every blessing)

#### **• Now how happy God is**

v13

How could I now dishonour  
The ones that You have loved?  
(Beneath the cross of Jesus)