**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**November 26th 2017. Testament. Ten Commandments**

**Discussion notes: Love Your neighbour. Exodus 20. Leviticus 19.**

Jesus knew and loved the Old Testament. Its books were his scriptures. When asked about the greatest commandments he quoted from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18 (Love God, and Love your neighbour) and said the whole of the Law and Prophets (i.e. the Bible as he knew it) hung on these two sayings. The ten commandments are in many ways an articulation of these two principles.Love your neighbour as yourself is stated once in the Old Testament and quoted directly nine times in the new.

1. What is the first principle of loving your neighbour (Rom 13:8-10? How do the last 6 commandments demonstrate this?
2. How did the Israelites interpret this command in the light of their conquest of Caanan?
3. What is striking about Leviticus 19:33-34 in the light of question 2?
4. How does Jesus expand our understanding of this passage in Luke 10:25-37?
5. How literal should this command be? How do you practice loving your neighbour? How does the New Testament (e.g. James, 1 John) build on this Old Testament foundation?

One of the greatest motivations to love is ‘empathy’. How do we empathise with those not like us, or even our opponents? When Jesus tells us to love our enemies does that require empathy towards those kind of people? Where do we need help in empathising today?