

VICTORIA

Life

Sunday 30th March 2025

Love your
Enemies?



“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:43-44



The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:33-48

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (v48)

Last week, Derek Page showed us the first three ways to be perfect – prioritising peace, purity and faithfulness in our relationships. As much as we might agree in principle, we are forced to confess that, if this is what God would have us be, we are a long way from what we should be. As Derek said, “The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart.”



This week we’ll look at the second three ways to be perfect. It’s not difficult to see what Jesus says the commandments require – honesty, generosity and indiscriminating love for people. None of these are hard things to understand and yet all of them find us out. We’re not perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect.

The good news, however, is that Jesus is perfect and gave Himself that we might be counted perfect immediately and become perfect gradually. That’s the joy and journey of the Christian life. I hope you’ll be able to join us this Mother’s Day as we consider it together.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS’ MEETING

A reminder that anyone interested in finding out more about membership of VBC should try to attend tonight’s meeting with Richard Kirk, our Membership Coordinator. Meet downstairs at 5pm.

NEXT WEEK (6TH)

Chris Short will be continuing his series on the Sermon on the Mount next Sunday morning. The service will include a time of Communion.

In the evening, at 6.30pm, we have our Church Prayer Meeting.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week

Chris	off Tues		
Colin	off Mon	Phil	in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	off Tues
Tim	in Wed & Fri am	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	annual leave	Lucy	in Wed am, Thurs, Fri am
Sandra	off Thurs	Jez	in Wed & Fri

Senior Minister

Chris Short

PA to Senior Minister

Sandra Taylor

Family Ministries

Simon Grimes - Children

Church Administrator

Colin McMahon

Caretaker

Kevin Virgo

CAP Debt Centre Manager

Phil Papps

CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

Treasurer

Mark Evason

Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

Ministry Assistants

Tim Nunn (Discipleship)

Lucy Craggs (Women)

Life Group Coordinator and interim Youth Leader

Jez Taylor

Staff contact details:

firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk

(eg *chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk*)

VBC Bank Details

Account Name:

Victoria Baptist Church Trust

Account Number: 00010297

Sort Code: 40-52-40

01323 737974

Eldon Road, Eastbourne BN21 1UE

helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk

www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

- Sun 30 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short
 5.00pm Prospective Members' Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8!
- Mon 31 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 1 Soaking in the Spirit next meeting - 8th Apr
- Wed 2 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 6.30pm Boys Brigade
- Thu 3 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 10.15am Men's Fellowship AGM
 1.15pm Thanksgiving for Anna Roberts at Holy Trinity Church
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Lucy Craggs
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
 evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)
- Fri 4 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 5 1.00pm Messy Easter
- Sun 6 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short, to include Communion
 6.30pm Church Prayer Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8!

The Week Ahead

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*

Erik Cornelisse Mar 30 Woodingdean Church, 10.30am

Erik Cornelisse Apr 6 Bernhard Baron, 5pm



Sunday Evening Service

Following on from the three trial Sunday evening services, it has been decided to continue with them on the second Sunday of each month.

This means the next one will be on **Sunday 13th April at 6pm**

As explained previously, the desire is to create an environment where there is more opportunity to allow the Holy Spirit to work freely and draw near to God. Whilst the style of the service has been influenced by a group in their twenties, the service is open to all ages.

Men's Non-CURRY NIGHT

In the ongoing social experiment to be more 'inclusive' and fellowship with those who don't enjoy curry, we are going Lebanese for a change. Please note the time, date & venue- Wednesday 7th May at 7pm at Cedarz, 48 Grove Road



A sign up sheet will appear in the Welcome Centre nearer the time...

Ladies Away Day



We have been really pleased with the initial response to this event - Sat May 17th at Glyndley Manor, 9am-4pm. If you haven't yet bought your ticket, they will be on sale again on Sunday. Please see Lucy Craggs for more details.

ALPHA

Once again, all being well, we will be starting another Alpha Course, this time on Wednesday evenings from the 30th April ... but it relies on all of us to pray, get involved and invite people!

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions running over nine weeks that allows people to freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. It's for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and ask questions about Jesus in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. Each session includes meeting together, a short talk, and a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts. At any point, if you think Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure, no follow-up and no charge.

Our Alpha Course will start at 6.45pm on Wednesday 30th April.

For further information or to sign up, contact Tim Nunn: tim@victoriabaptist.org.uk

Here are two links that explain more about the Alpha Course:

National Alpha website: <https://alpha.org.uk/>

VBC website: <https://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk/church-life/alpha-victoria/>





"...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood."

Victoria Baptist Church will be 100 years old in June and we are planning a weekend of celebrations. We want to honour the past, but we are also excited for the future. More details for the events below will be published shortly, but please keep the weekend free and join us if you can.

We are also planning to give away 100 goody bags to people in our community, and we would like to be able to produce a booklet of special memories from over the years. Please send in any memories of your time at VBC that you would like to share with us.

We want this to be a time where we thank God for what He has already done, bless our community and look forward to what God will do in the next 100 years.



VICTORIA

Baptist Church Eastbourne

You are cordially invited to join us for a weekend of celebrations 6, 7 & 8 June 2025

1925 - 2025

Friday 6th
7.30pm
Quiz Evening

Saturday 7th
10.00am - 1.00pm
VBC Open Morning

Saturday 7th
7.30pm
Lou Fellingham
Concert

Sunday 8th
10.00am - 11.30am
Centenary Celebration
with special guest speaker:

Rev. Peter Morden

followed by a picnic
(bring your own)
accompanied by
a local string quartet

christians
against
poverty

CAP



Don't miss money coaching

At Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) are running a **free money coaching course** looking at things like balancing a household budget, prioritising spending and keeping your finances stable into the future. **Sign up to book your free place!**

**Use the QR Code above or the link
below to SIGN UP TODAY!**

24 April 2025 at 7:30pm
1 May 2025 at 7:30pm
8 May 2025 at 7:30pm
15 May 2025 at 7:30pm
22 May 2025 at 7:30pm

<https://tinyurl.com/Eastbourne-CAP-Money-Coaching>

Monday *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. (Ps 23:1)* Lord Jesus we thank You that You are the Good Shepherd. Help us not to be like frightened, passive animals but obedient followers, wise enough to follow the One who will lead us to the right places in the right way.

Tuesday *He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me besides still waters. (Ps.23:2)* Lord, as we struggle with our lives this week help us to submit to Your leading and learn to become completely dependent on You for our provision, guidance and protection. We pray that in learning these lessons we will find contentment for our own good and so we can be used in Your service to Your glory.

Wednesday *He guides me in paths of righteousness for His names sake. (Ps.23:3)* Father God we pray forgiveness for the times when we choose to sin by going our own way. We know we cannot blame You for the consequences here on earth for our personal disobedience and as a world community. We acknowledge that rebelling against You is rebelling against our own best interests.

Thursday *Through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil. (Ps.23:4)* Some in our congregation are caring for family in the last months of life. Please pray that God will give strength to all members of families at these difficult times. Lord Jesus walk with us through these times. The God of life, our Shepherd, prepare us all and bring us safely into Your kingdom as we put our total faith in You.

Friday As we have so graciously received from God through the words of this psalm, guide us now Lord to pass Your love on as a blessing to neighbours and work colleagues or wherever You take us this week, always remembering that no act of Christian love is ever wasted for Your kingdom - *"for they'll know we are Christians by our love"*

Saturday Please continue to pray for world peace in every war torn country, where brutal regimes destroy lives of whole communities, and where Christianity is forbidden. Our world needs our endless prayers.

Sunday *The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. (Ps 24:1)* Father, everything belongs to You our glorious eternal King. We come today to worship You and welcome Your glorious reign. And we pray that everyone who watches our service on YouTube will draw closer to God and feel part of Your family too.



SUMMER WE NEED YOU! TIME

Vicky Bees

The garden is mown
and ready to use.

But we have a problem.
We are in need of garden play
equipment for Vicky Bees.

If you feel you can help in any way
please let us know.

simone@victoriabaptist.org.uk

Seeing CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Part 11: The Blessing of Work (with the help of Tim Keller)

Work is often seen as a chore to be endured and avoided BUT the Bible's perspective on it is very different. From the beginning of the world it is seen as something good, beneficial and to be enjoyed. How can that be? Let's see what Proverbs and the Bible teach on the subject to help us be wise about our work.

1. It's worth noting, God and Jesus both work. God in creating the world, '*Rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done*' (Gen. 2:2). "*My Father, said Jesus, 'is always at His work.... and I too am working*" (Jn. 5:17). God was not afraid to get His hands dirty when He created man from the dust of the ground, Jesus worked first as a carpenter, then as an itinerant preacher, healer and worker for our salvation and Paul also worked '*night and day*' for the sake of the gospel. Work existed in the Garden of Eden before the fall so we must **start by saying it is a good and valuable thing for people to work** and bad if they don't. This applies to all work, paid or unpaid.

2. The Bible teaches **there is a variety of work and God gives us different skills or gifts to practice**. "*Do you see a man skilful (gifted) in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men*" (Prov. 22:29). As it is God who provides this 'skill', understanding this makes us realise it is a spiritual gifting and whether you are cooking or teaching the Bible it has great worth in God's eyes. As George Herbert put it, '*Teach me, my God and King in all things Thee to see.....Who sweeps a room, as for Thy laws, makes that and the action fine.*'

3. It's important you use your 'skill', however high or lowly, with all care and diligence to be effective and God honouring. "*A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich*" (Prov. 10:4). 'Slack' here refers to a loosely tied bow that when used will miss the mark.

4. We should work, using the gift God gave us, **not for selfish ends but to benefit others/our community, even if it sometimes means 'taking a hit.'** Prov.8:1-4 speaks of wisdom calling out in the public squares, gates and the highest place in the city, having an influence on all aspects of a working city. The effect of the politicians and lay people who worked hard to abolish slavery in Britain in 1833 meant the country had to pay a huge price in compensating those who ran businesses with slaves and in the subsequent hike in food prices. Their motivation was not financial gain but the dignity of all men regardless of colour based on their Christian beliefs.

5. How is this possible when you consider how difficult work is with all the many things that can go wrong and thwart our plans? The Bible is realistic and realises ...

Do you see a man who **EXCELS** in his work? He will stand before kings.

- Proverbs 22:29 -

this. "The way of the sluggard is **blocked with thorns**, but the path of the upright is a highway" (Prov. 15:19). After the Fall, God cursed the ground and made work difficult because of 'thorns' (Gen 3:17-19), hardships, which both the believer and unbeliever have to face in their working life. Thankfully, God has provided a cure. In Jesus we are made 'upright' and He has cleared our path. He became a 'curse' for us on the cross (Gal.3:13) and bore the 'thorns', spiritually and physically, in His life and passion so we can live a life working for Him now, whose "yoke is easy, his burden is light and we can find rest for our souls" (Matt.11:28-39). Therefore, look forward to joyfully using your skills to help others, knowing you are serving Christ, the King of Kings, and He will reward you.

To hear the full sermon by Timothy Keller go to: [Sluggardliness – Gospel in Life](#)

John Demetriou

26TH APRIL

River of Life + **INVICTUS** CHURCH Kings present

1 Corinthians 12

NINE GIFTS ONE GOD!

all for our good and His glory

1-5PM
WHAT, WHY & HOW
PIZZA BREAK

7-9.30PM
WORSHIP & MINISTRY

WHERE:
St Barnabas Church
Kingfisher Drive, BN23 7RL

aimed at young people 13 – 25yrs
Come and learn the "what, why and how" of each of the gifts

Hosted by River of Life Church
with Invictus Kingdom Ministries
(www.invictuskings.com)

for details contact:
julie.s@rolcc.uk
07882 497078

Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
Beryl Braitman
in memory of her mother



Thank you for arranging flowers to be delivered to me - they were such a lovely surprise. KN

