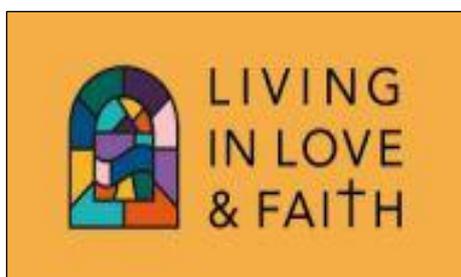


'LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH'



Our 5-session course finished last week. It was a real opportunity to discuss frankly issues of Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage and what it means as followers of Jesus to live in love and faith.

Feedback from the participants:

- 'We are all made 'in the image of God' The course highlighted the extent of prejudice which exists in everyday life. Love and acceptance is the key.'
- *'I found the course challenging but never confrontational, sympathetic but never cloying, enlightening, humane, and spiritually penetrating. I would urge anyone to ignore any preconceptions they may have and at least to approach it with an open mind.'*
- 'I found the course informative and thought-provoking. But although it used Scripture to support its position, it didn't address the troubling (to me) NT passages eg Matthew 19 vv 4&5, and 1 Corinthians 6 v9'
- *'I found the booklet brought out well the different aspects of friendship, relationships, sex and marriage, some of the different views and the need to seek unity among us as brothers and sisters in Christ!'*
- 'Helpful and liberating'
- *'It was good to share our differing viewpoints and to learn from each other as well as from the course. It was very thought provoking: so much needless and unnecessary hurt caused by Christians to those with different orientations. A wake-up call or those we've hurt unnecessarily will leave our Churches.'*

- 'This course has clarified my thinking and put issues of our differences and our prejudices into a sound biblical context. Thank you.'
- *'The LLF course gave a real chance to share fellowship with other Christians listen to the points of views of others in love and have a chance for open honest discussion about what can be seen as a taboo subject. I found the Pastoral Principles were a great focus each week and it would be good to have these visibly displayed in the church.'*
- 'This course is well and sympathetically designed to provide a safe environment for discussion of potentially conflicting views in a loving way.'
- *'This course really made me think about how I listen and the need to give full attention to what people are saying. I had also never come across "The Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together" before and these challenged me and made me think.'*
- 'I found the course to be well produced and challenging. Unfortunately, although I watched all the videos, for various reasons I was unable to attend 3 sessions in person so missed out on the discussions in those sessions. It was good to appreciate what a different community we now have compared with even 20 years ago and vital that we discuss all the issues involved.'

I'm sure we would all agree that our perspectives on these important issues were widened through the course itself and the discussions which it generated. I commend the course to you all – further details can be found on:

<https://llf.churchofengland.org/>

Roger Grose

