

## The Unique Witness of Unlikely Friendship (Amy Dimarcangelo) - edited

I love easy friendships. The kind where you get along and rarely butt heads. The kind where conversations flow because of shared interests, and you both feel passionate about the same social issues and theological convictions. I love friendships where you just 'get' each other. Such friendships are certainly gifts to be cherished! But if Christian friendships are only the product of ease, they fail to display the supernatural work of the Spirit. The church is called to more than what comes naturally.

If we allow the gospel to radically infiltrate our friendships, our love for one another will amplify our witness to the world. Through our friendships with brothers and sisters in Christ—even those brothers and sisters who seem unlike us—we can demonstrate the unifying love of Christ, the rescuing love of Christ, and the reconciling love of Christ. This hard-won love spotlights the transforming work of our Saviour.

### **1. Demonstrate His Unifying Love**

We tend to seek friendships with those most like us, building 'tribes' around similar personalities, backgrounds, and interests. But unlikely friendships testify to the unifying love of Christ. [...] Jesus didn't save us to hang out in exclusive tribes, He saved us from different tribes to be His people (1 Pet.2:9-10). We aren't united by education, political affiliations, personalities, or interests. We're united because the blood of our Saviour has purchased us to be His own (Gal. 3:28). And because we are His, we are called to love those who are His (1 John 4:7). Our friendships shouldn't always make sense to the world; they should grab the world's attention and make them wonder why in the world we love each other.

### **2. Demonstrate His Rescuing Love**

Friendships within the church are essential to our spiritual protection. We face many temptations and don't always see our sin clearly, so God works through godly friends as a means of rescue. Biblical love calls us to help one another in the battle against sin and the fight for holiness. We can't do it alone!

Practicing such rescuing love is hard [...]. Sometimes we're tempted to withhold speaking truth in love because we fear conflict. We'd rather rescue ourselves from discomfort than demonstrate Christ's rescuing love to a friend struggling with sin. [...] Sin entangles us all. We need friends—and need to be friends—willing to speak the truth in love, and so display the rescuing love of Christ.

### **3. Demonstrate His Reconciling Love**

The more we build friendships with those different from us, the more likely we'll encounter conflict. We may be insensitive to those who struggle in ways we don't understand. We may go into hard conversations in a spirit of grace and leave them in a spirit of self-righteousness. And when conflicts arise, we'll often be tempted to withdraw and feed bitterness rather than press on and pursue reconciliation.

Our Saviour calls us—and the Holy Spirit empowers us—to be peacemakers. And the only way to make peace is to fight sin. We must fight against pride, which always inflates others' sin, shrinks our own, and assumes we're in the right. In situations where we are in the right, we must fight to be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving, just as Christ has been to us (Eph. 4:32)

... *inside page 3 to continue...*



16 February 2020 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

## Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at [www.slechurch.org.au](http://www.slechurch.org.au).

### **This Week: Firm Foundations — Meeting the World**

Act wisely and speak graciously towards outsiders. Christians are commanded to act and speak in ways that give answers for our hope.



**Next Week: Jonah 1**

## Today's Service

<b>Welcome and Singing</b>	O Church Arise Hear the Call of the Kingdom Before You I Kneel
<b>Holy Communion</b>	
<b>Offering</b>	
<b>Community News</b>	
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Colossians 3:1-4:6
<b>Sermon</b>	By Pastor Steven Tran
<b>Song of Response</b>	O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

## Stay Connected

- [facebook.com/slechurch](https://facebook.com/slechurch)
- [www.sle.church](http://www.sle.church)
- +61 490 760 152
- [info@sle.church](mailto:info@sle.church)
- 83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out [sle.church/groups](https://sle.church/groups) to find a group that you can join.

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# Say hello

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Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.  
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

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## Our Pastors

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### SENIOR PASTOR BEN HO

**Mobile:** +61 433 581 335

**Email:** ben.ho@sle.church

### PASTOR STEVEN TRAN

**Mobile:** +61 411 621 159

**Email:** steven.tran@sle.church

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## Financial Update

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Last Week	\$7,269.15
Weekly Required	\$6,280.00
Shortfall 2020	\$535.00

### Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

**A/C Name:** SLE Church  
**Bank:** National Australia Bank  
**BSB:** 084-424  
**A/C No:** 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

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## Prayer Points

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**PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GRACE** evidenced in the foundations of the Christian faith. Praise God for initiating and providing for our salvation through Jesus, for saving us out of sin and into a new life in God's ways, for His self-revelation through His Word, for the privilege and gift of prayer and for the church.

**THANK GOD THAT WHENEVER WE MEET AS A CHURCH,** we express His wonderful saving and gathering work. Thank God for drawing us who were lost in sin and far away in our rebellion to Himself, saving us, reconciling us and gathering us as His Church, God's family.

**PRAY THAT WE WOULD INDEED NEVER NEGLECT MEETING TOGETHER.** Pray that we would come to church truly wanting to stir others up to love and good deeds and truly desiring to be stirred up by others, seeking always to be humble and teachable. Pray that we would come to church to encourage others and to receive encouragement to keep standing firm in the gospel, all the more as we wait for His return.

**THANK GOD FOR THE SLE CHURCH OVERSEERS 'POWWOW' YESTERDAY.** Thank God for the opportunity to be rallied to keep pressing on in our partnership in the gospel and to be encouraged with a vision for the future of the church. Pray for the church to press on in one spirit and one mind in living and serving for the glory of Christ.

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## Pastor's Desk

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*...Continuing from page 4 ...*

### They'll Know Us by Our Love

Jesus is our unifier, our rescuer, and our reconciler. He knows—more than we ever will—the great cost of love. And because He loved us first, we can love one another. This love is essential to living as the family we are, and it's essential to our mission in the world.

Jesus instructed His diverse band of followers: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35).

He summons us to the same today.

(From <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/unique-witness-unlikely-friendships/>)

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## Serving

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	Today	Next Sunday
<b>Chair</b>	Ps Ben	Simeon
<b>Prayer</b>	Ps Ben <i>Winnie</i>	Faith <i>Ps Ben</i>
<b>Preach</b>	Ps Steven	Ps Steven
<b>Bible Read</b>	Simeon <i>Dan Lowe</i>	Alice <i>Alan</i>
<b>M.Tea</b>	Daisy, Alice	Winnie T.,
<b>Wash Up</b>	SaLT	Sunday YF
<b>Welcome</b>	Wen  Marie  Richard	Wen  Marie  Richard
	<i>Ben, Marcus</i>	<i>Merv, Marcus</i>
	<i>Lydia, Jabez</i>	<i>Lydia, Jabez</i>
	<i>Sarah</i>	<i>Sarah</i>
<b>Stewards</b>	John  Meng Yin  Norman  <i>Helen</i>  <i>Camer</i>  <i>Josh</i>	John  Meng Yin  Norman  <i>Helen</i>  <i>Camer</i>  <i>Josh</i>
<b>Piano</b>	Dan Lowe	Joanna Pan
<b>Guitar</b>	Jabez	Mark/ Shaopeng
<b>Bass</b>	Shaun	Liesl
<b>Drums</b>	Ivan	Nigel
<b>Vocal</b>	Sharne	Shaun/ Amanda
<b>PA</b>		

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# Meeting the World [Colossians 4:5-6]

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The journey so far...

1. Introduction: actions and words matter

2. Actions matter (4:5)  
a. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders

b. Making the best use of the time

So what?

3. Words matter (4:6)  
a. Gracious salty speech

b. *So that* you can answer

So what?

Action and words matter

Firm foundations for all of life