'I will maintain Christian ideals in all my relationships with others: my family and neighbours, my colleagues and fellow Salvationists, those to whom and for whom I am responsible, and the wider community.'

All people are created in God’s image. And because of this, all people have dignity and worth.

All people.

When Jesus invites us to follow him, he invites us to more than just a party or a gathering of friends. He invites us into deep relationship in the family of God.
We are a family. Not a family defined by bloodline or last name. But by a Father. A shared story. And a new way to be human.

When we make the values of the Kingdom of God the benchmark for our life, nurturing and maintaining healthy relationships becomes a priority. The Kingdom of God demands that we value and care for God’s creation, that we treat one another with dignity and respect, in all circumstances.

We are human. There will be things we disagree on. But in that difference, we can still respect one another, we can still listen, learn, and seek to understand.

Above all, we can still love.

We were made for life together. When we live faithfully, with integrity, loyalty and commitment in our relationships, we flourish as human beings and are on our way to becoming more like Jesus.

And as we seek to follow Jesus, we need partners for the journey, a community to help us along the way. From moments of pain to moments of happiness, from grief to celebration, we can experience the fullness of life together.

We need connection. To belong. To be part of something bigger. To know and be known. To love and be loved. With dignity and respect.

Let us discover the richness of life as God intended, in community, in the family of God.
The gospel is founded on relationship. Rooted in love.

The whole story of the Bible is God’s pursuit of relationship with his people.

And he is in relentless pursuit of relationship with you.

‘Love the Lord your God with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, and with every thought that is within you.’

This is the great and supreme commandment.

And the second is like it in importance: ‘You must love your friend in the same way you love yourself.’

Matthew 22:37-39 TPT

The two greatest commandments affirmed by Jesus are centred on relationship - love for God and love for others.

Are you pursuing relationship with God and relationship with others in the way Jesus shows us?
A prayer for unity:

'Lord Jesus Christ, who prayed for your disciples that they might be one, even as you are one with the Father; draw us to yourself, that in common love and obedience to you we may be united to one another, in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen'
To be united as one doesn't mean we will agree on everything.

It doesn't mean we will have the same skills, passions and interests.

Unity means finding common ground in our reason for being.

To praise, honour and serve our Heavenly Father.

To be with him, to learn from him and serve others in his name.

From that place of unity we can celebrate our differences and approach our disagreements with love, respect and learning.

🙏 Prayer for unity, written by William Temple, based on John 17, Jesus' high-priestly prayer

⭕️ This week, we are reading chapter six of Called to be a Soldier. Contact your local Salvation Army to find out how you can access a copy of the book

🔍 Find out more about the Called to be a Soldier resource and this focus at sar.my/calledfocus or via the link in our bio

💬 Get in touch - tell us your story, share where God is at work in your life or how you are using Called to be a Soldier

In a world where more attention is given to highlighting conflict than resolving it, we can play a distinctive role - by disagreeing constructively and with love.

In John 13:35, Jesus teaches that mutual love within the church is what identifies it to outsiders:

'By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another'.

We're called to be peacemakers. To be bridge-builders in every sector of society. Practising love for our neighbours. Within and beyond the church.

Reflect on this: Am I a peacemaker or a source of conflict in my relationships?
When Jesus went to the synagogue at Nazareth, he read from the book of Isaiah of a time when there would be good news for the poor, freedom for prisoners, sight for the blind and release for the oppressed.

And he said that, through him, the time of God’s Kingdom had begun.

A message of hope.

Pope Francis shared these thoughts on hope:

‘To Christians, the future does have a name, and its name is Hope.

Feeling hopeful does not mean to be optimistically naïve and ignore the tragedy humanity is facing.
Hope is the virtue of a heart that doesn’t lock itself into darkness, that doesn’t dwell on the past, does not simply get by in the present, but is able to see a tomorrow.

Hope is the door that opens onto the future.

Hope is a humble, hidden seed of life that, with time, will develop into a large tree.

It is like some invisible yeast that allows the whole dough to grow, that brings flavour to all aspects of life.

And it can do so much, because a tiny flicker of light that feeds on hope is enough to shatter the shield of darkness.

A single individual is enough for hope to exist, and that individual can be you. And then there will be another “you,” and another “you,” and it turns into an “us.” And so, does hope begin when we have an “us?” No. Hope began with one “you.” When there is an “us,” there begins a revolution.

How are you sharing hope with those around you today?

Watch the full TED Talk ‘We all need each other’

This week, we are reading chapter six of Called to be a Soldier. Contact your local Salvation Army to find out how you can access a copy of the book

Find out more about the Called to be a Soldier resource and this focus at sar.my/calledfocus

Get in touch - tell us your story, share where God is at work in your life or how you are using Called to be a Soldier
As we come to the end of our focus on chapter six of Called to be a Soldier, reflect on this:

Am I seeking healthy relationships, loving others the way they would want to be loved?

☐ This week, we are reading chapter six of Called to be a Soldier. Contact your local Salvation Army to find out how you can access a copy of the book

🔗 Find out more about the Called to be a Soldier resource and this focus at sar.my/calledfocus or follow the link in our bio

💬 Get in touch - tell us your story, share where God is at work in your life or how you are using Called to be a Soldier