



How Do I Love My Neighbor?

Greatest Commandment

Matthew 25: 36-39

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Who is my Neighbor?

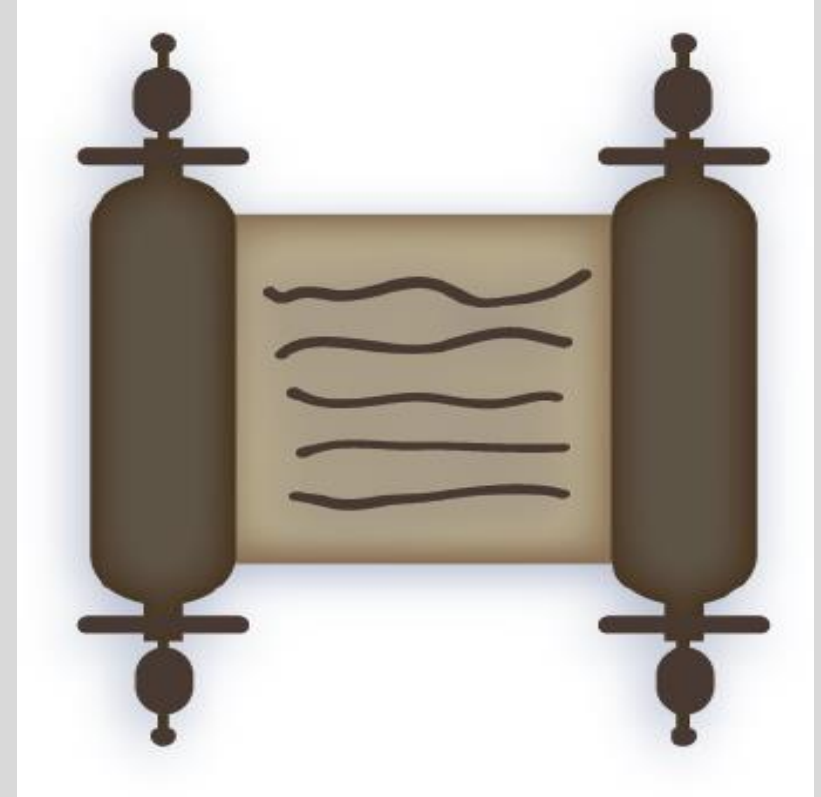
- Luke 10:29- Expert of the Law asked this same question.
- Jesus told the **Parable of the Good Samaritan**
- Luke 10:36 Then Jesus asks, “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

How do I love my Neighbor?

Matthew 25:34-40



Luke 4:16-21



“All the World My Parish”

For Wesley there is no religion but social religion, no holiness but social holiness. The communal forms of faith in the Wesleyan tradition not only promote personal growth; they also equip and mobilize us for mission and service to the world.

The outreach of the church springs from the working of the Spirit. As United Methodists, we respond to that working through a connectional polity based upon mutual responsiveness and accountability. Connectional ties bind us together in faith and service in our global witness, enabling faith to become active in love and intensifying our desire for peace and justice in the world.

WESLEY'S THREE RULES

- Do No Harm
- Do Good to the bodies and souls of others (Works of Mercy)
- Attend to the Ordinances of God (Works of Piety)

VIDEO

FINGERS CROSSED!



Works of piety (last week) &
Works of mercy (this week)

Works of Piety

- **Individual Practices** – reading, meditating and studying the scriptures, prayer, fasting, healthy living, and sharing our faith with others
- **Communal Practices** – regularly attending worship, regularly sharing in the sacraments, Christian conferencing (accountability to one another), and Bible study



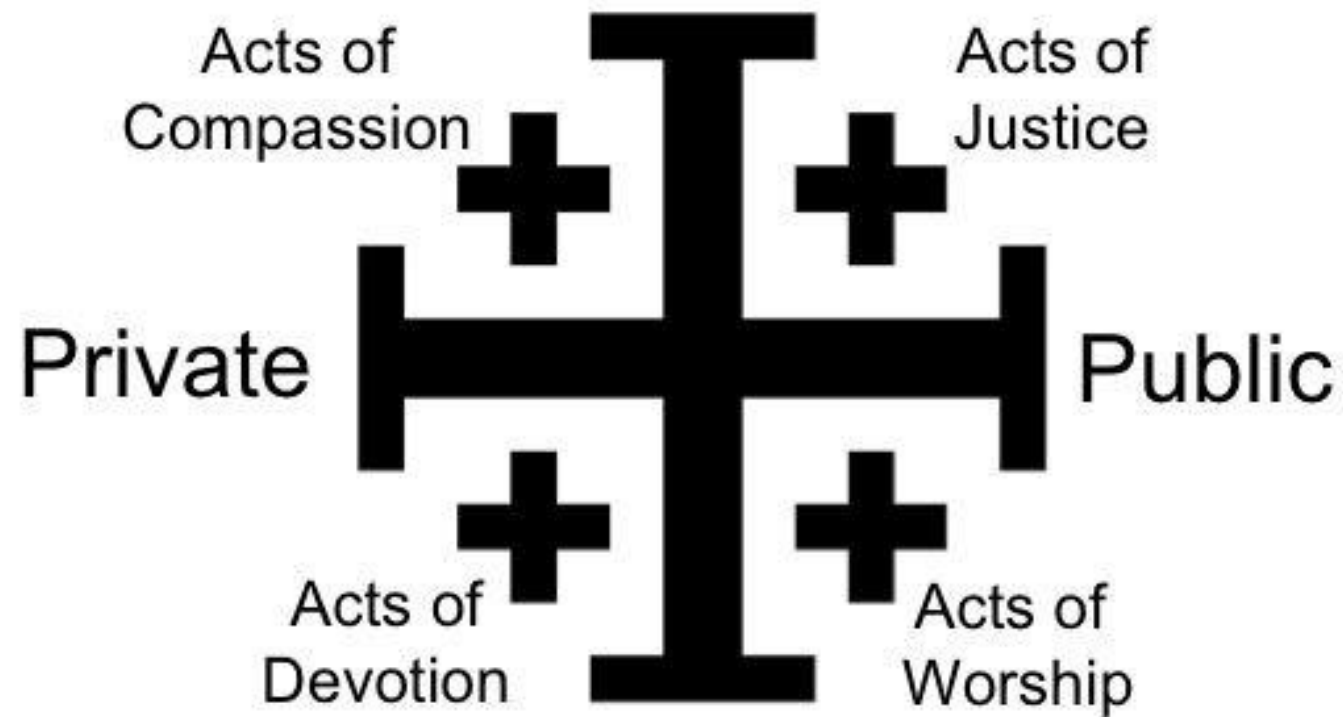
Works of piety (last week) &
Works of mercy (this week)

Works of Mercy

- **Individual Practices** - doing good works, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, feeding the hungry, and giving generously to the needs of others
- **Communal Practices** – seeking justice, ending oppression and discrimination (for instance Wesley challenged Methodists to end slavery), and addressing the needs of the poor



Works of Mercy



Works of Piety

ACTS OF
COMPASSION-
PERSONAL
WORKS OF
MERCY

They are what **you** do with a person who needs help. When **you** meet someone who is hungry, give her something to eat. When someone's loved one dies, **you** go and comfort him. When someone is a stranger in the congregation or your home **you** extend hospitality. These are examples of acts of compassion Jesus practiced and taught his disciples to imitate. They are simple kindness that shares God's love through **you**.

ACTS OF
JUSTICE-
SOCIAL
WORKS OF
MERCY

They are performed by **you and others united with the church** and other institutions working for the common good. Jesus tells us to feed the hungry. He also expects **us** to ask why people are hungry and then to **organize** and act to address the causes of our neighbor's hunger. **Christians** are commanded by Christ to care for the vulnerable, voiceless, and outcast by alleviating their suffering and to be **the voices** asking why. **Followers of Jesus** are charged with getting at the causes of **our** neighbor's suffering. Write letters to elected representatives, call them on the telephone, sign petitions, march, protest, be a well-informed voter, and volunteer to serve on a social justice campaign.



Equality



Equity



Justice

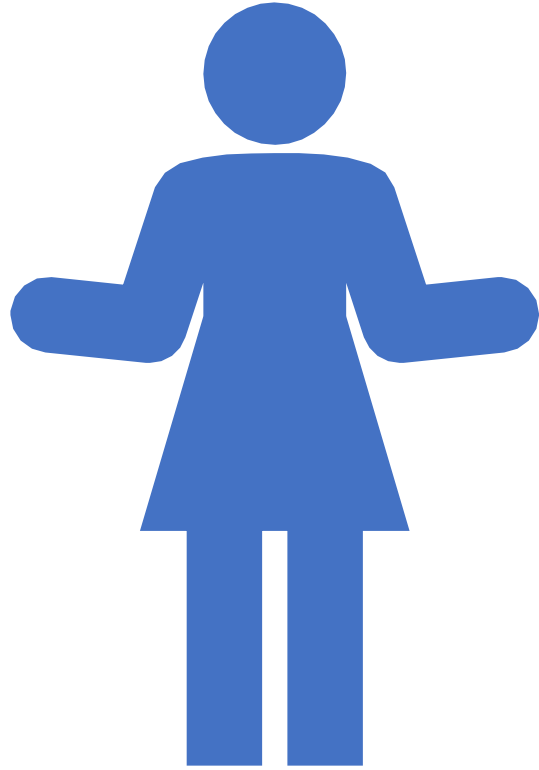
UMC SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

The Social Principles, while not to be considered church law, are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in United Methodist traditions. They are a call to faithfulness and are intended to be instructive and persuasive in the best of the prophetic spirit. The Social Principles are a call to all members of The United Methodist Church to a prayerful, studied dialogue of faith and practice. (See ¶ 509.)

The Natural World



- Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants
- Energy Resources Utilization
- Animal Life
- Global Climate Stewardship
- Space
- Science and Technology
- Food Safety
- Food Justice



The Nurturing Community

- Culture and Identity
- The Family
- Marriage
- Divorce
- Single Persons
- Women and Men
- Human Sexuality
- Family Violence and Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Sexual Harassment
- Abortion
- Ministry to Those Who Have Experienced an Abortion
- Adoption
- Faithful Care for Dying Persons
- Suicide
- Sexual Assault
- Pornography
- Bullying

The Social Community



- Rights of Racial and Ethnic Persons
- Rights of Religious Minorities
- Rights of Children
- Rights of Young People
- Rights of the Aging
- Rights of Women
- Rights of Men
- Rights of Immigrants
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Equal Rights Regardless of Sexual Orientation
- Population
- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Tobacco
- Medical Experimentation
- Genetic Technology
- Rural Life
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Urban-Suburban Life
- Media Violence and Christian Values
- Information Communication Technology
- Persons Living with HIV and AIDS
- Right to Health Care
- Organ Transplantation and Donation
- Mental Health

The Economic Community

- Property
- Collective Bargaining
- Work and Leisure
- Consumption
- Poverty
- Foreign Workers
- Gambling
- Family Farms
- Corporate Responsibility
- Finance
- Trade and Investment
- Graft and Corruption
- Public Indebtedness



The Political Community

Basic Freedoms
and Human
Rights

Civil Obedience
and Civil
Disobedience

The Death
Penalty

Political
Responsibility

Education

Criminal Justice
and Restorative
Justice

Church and
State Relations

Freedom of
Information

Military Service

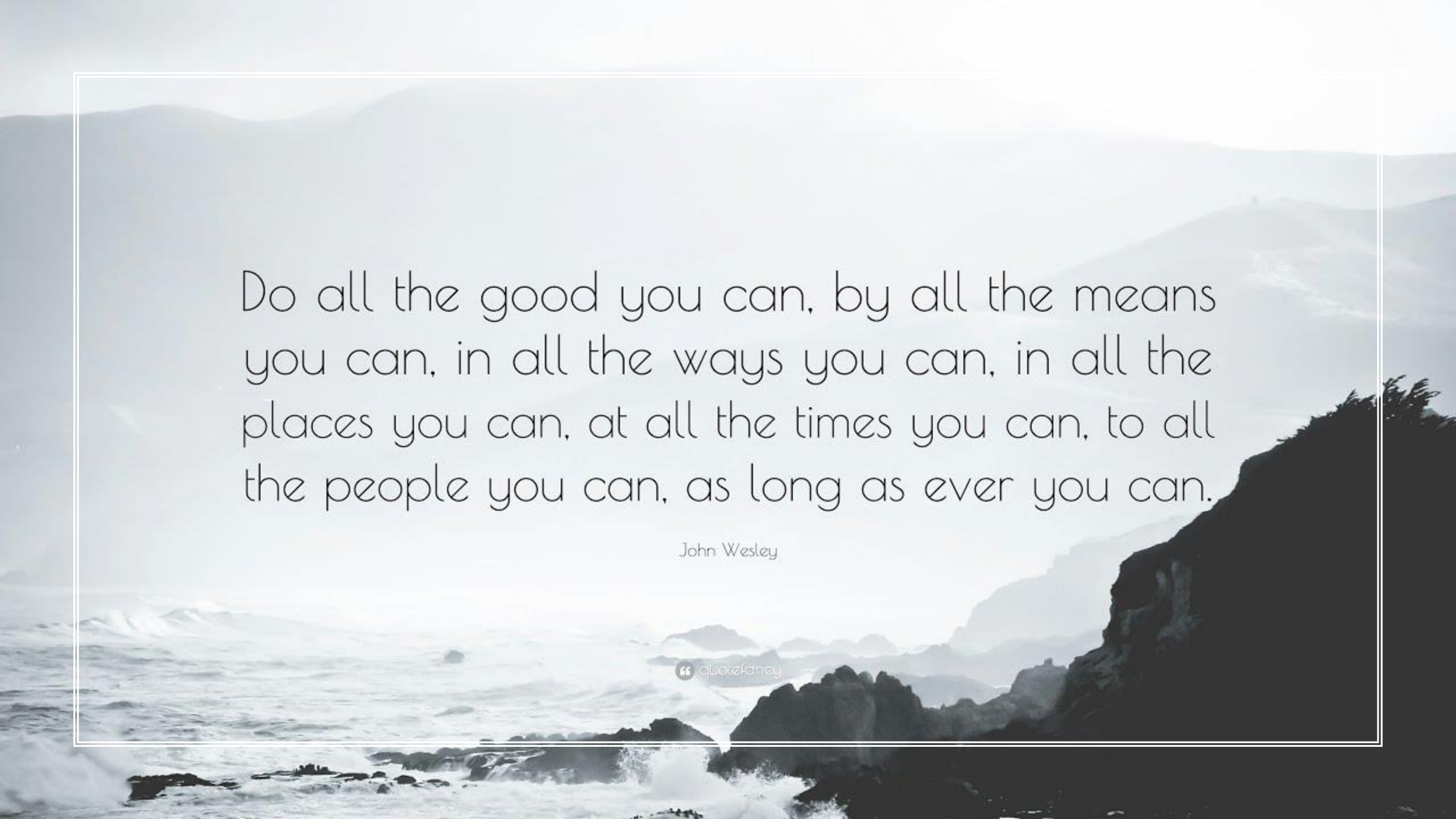


The World Community

- Nations and Cultures
- National Power and Responsibility
- War and Peace
- Justice and Law

The Social Creed

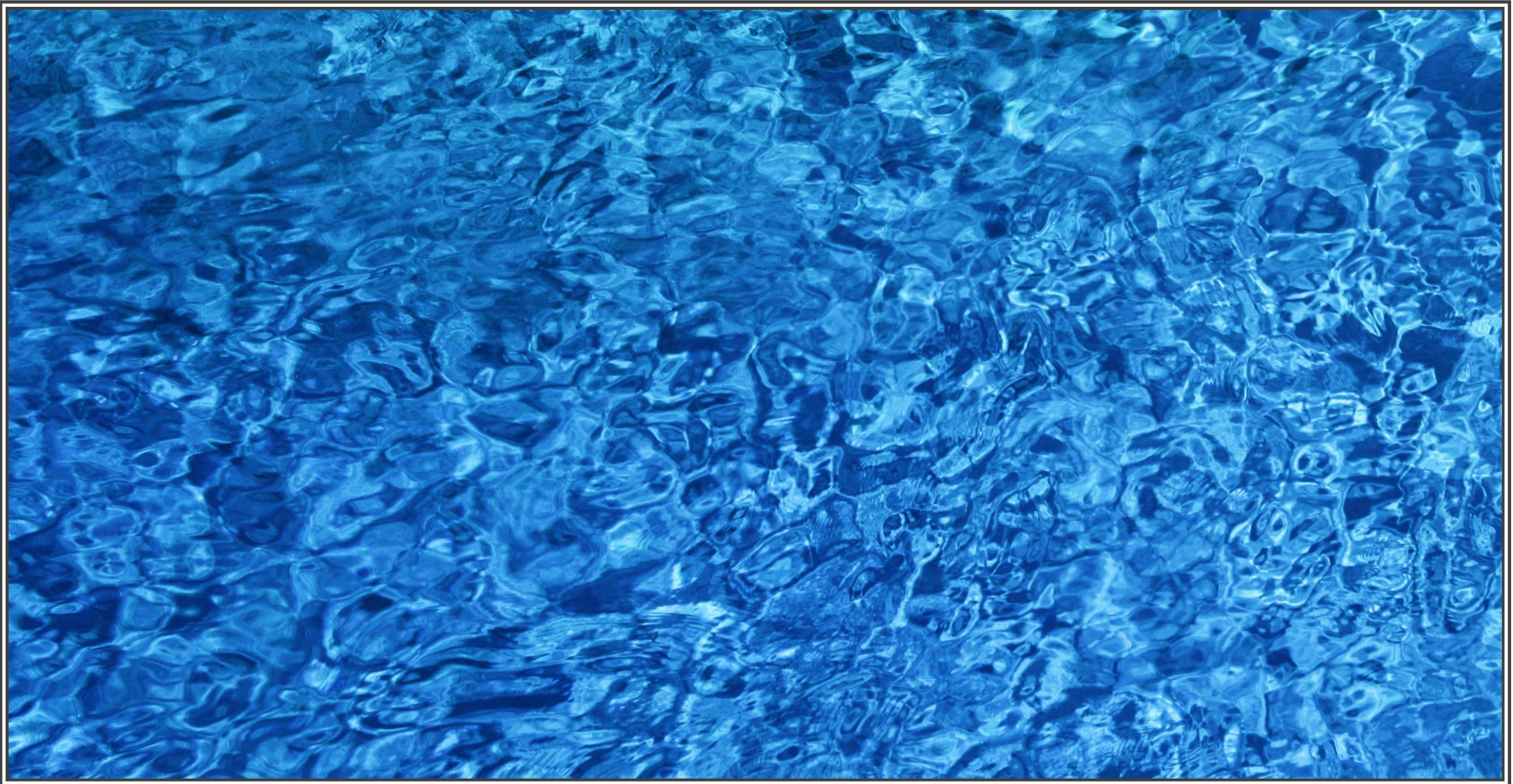
- We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.
- We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.
- We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.
- We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.
- We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.
- We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.
- We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.



Do all the good you can, by all the means
you can, in all the ways you can, in all the
places you can, at all the times you can, to all
the people you can, as long as ever you can.

John Wesley

“ quote fancy





A Companion Litany to
Our Social Creed