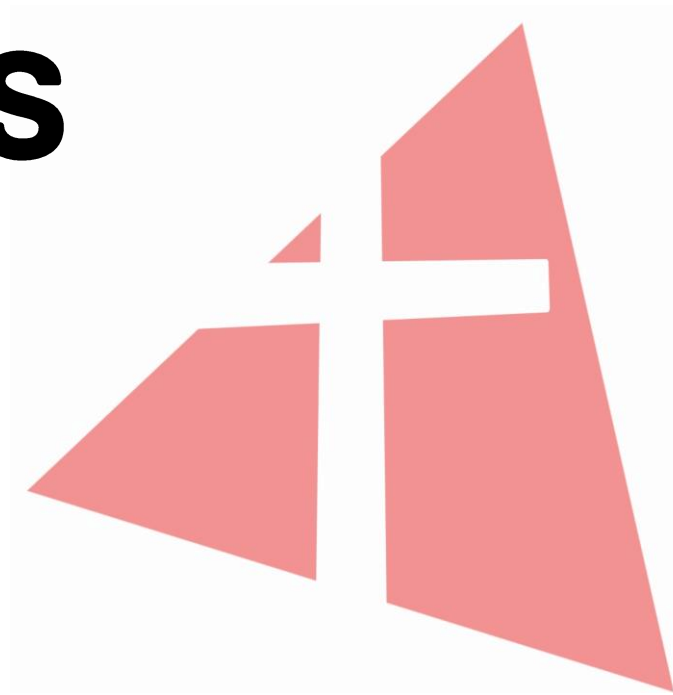


JUST FRIENDS

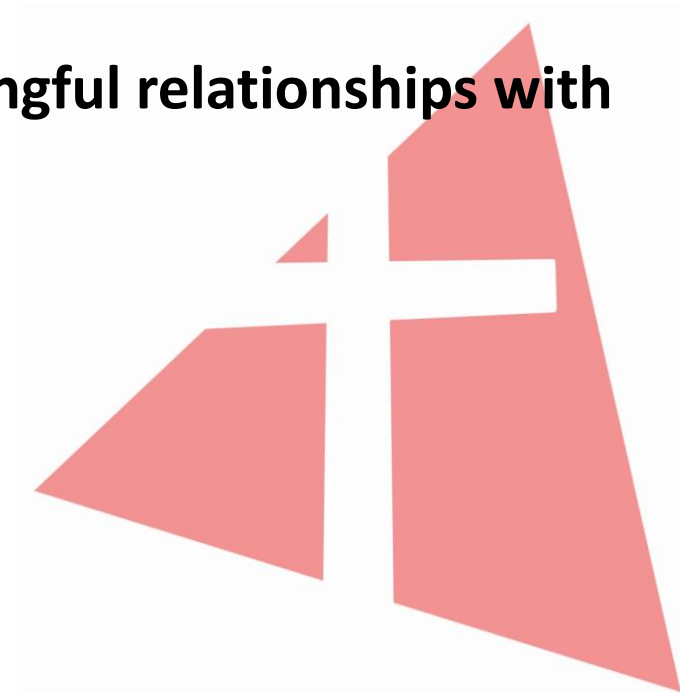
Relationships & Family Series

June 03rd 2018



FRIENDSHIP

- **The Bible wants us to have deep and meaningful relationships with men and women**

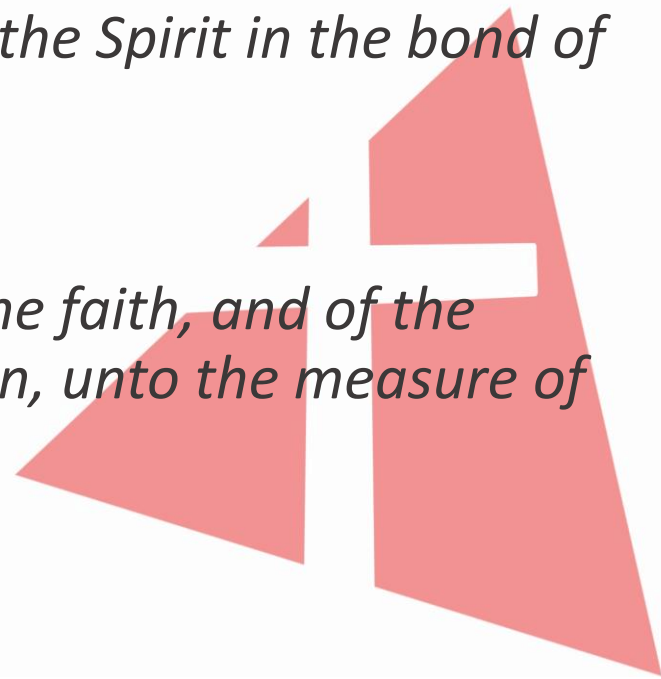


FRIENDSHIP

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

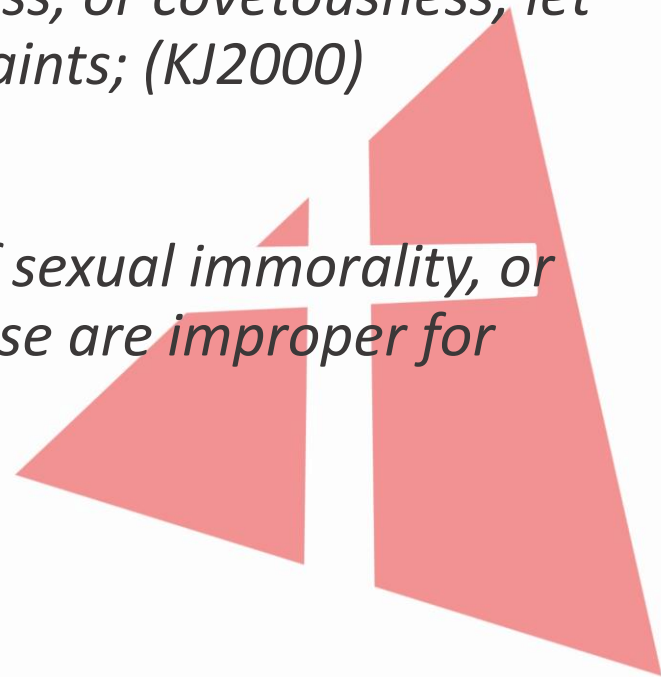


ON THE OTHER HAND

- **The Bible also warns us to keep clear boundaries**

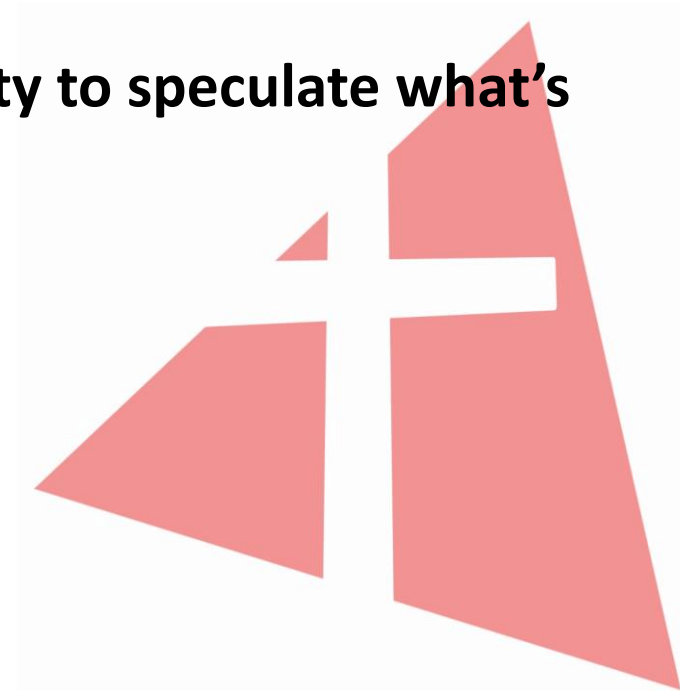
Ephesians 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becomes saints; (KJ2000)

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. (NIV)



BOUNDARIES

- Do not give **ANYBODY** the slightest possibility to speculate what's going on!



BOUNDARIES

- **These boundaries apply to anybody except your spouse**



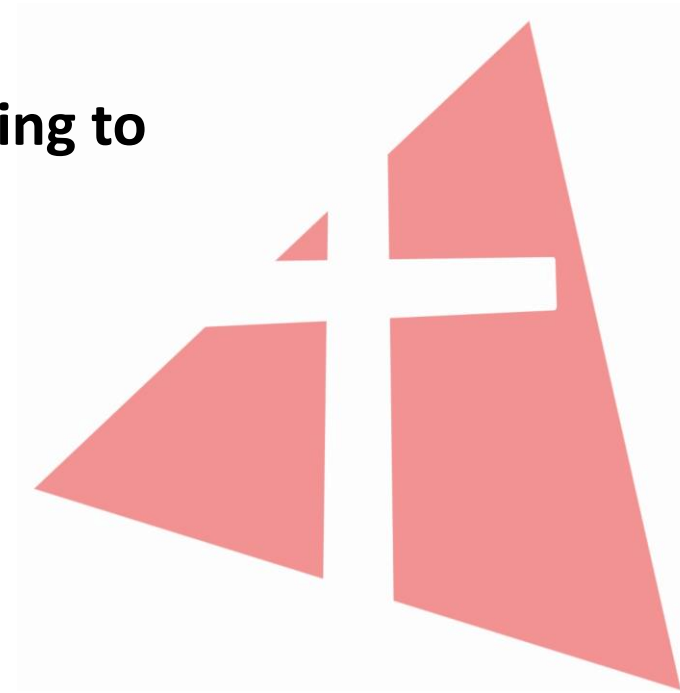
BOUNDARIES

- **Type of boundaries**
 - Physical boundaries
 - Emotional boundaries

Matthew 5:27-30 You have heard that it was said by them of old time, You shall not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if your right eye causes you to offend, pluck it out, and cast it from you: for it is better for you that one of your members should perish, and not that your whole body should be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to offend, cut it off, and cast it from you: for it is better for you that one of your members should perish, and not that your whole body should be cast into hell.

2 THINGS WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT

- **The person of the other gender we are relating to**



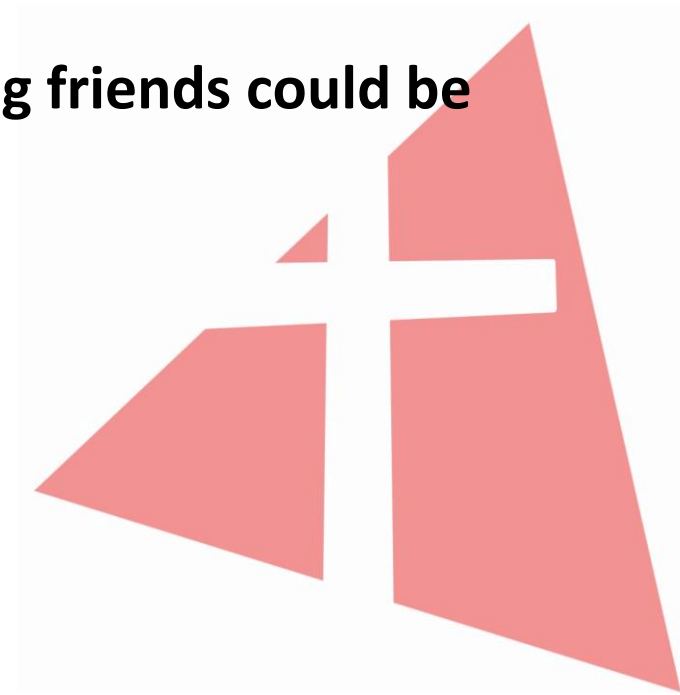
2 THINGS WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT

- **As soon as we have given a person of the other gender an objective reason to wonder whether we are sending out any kind of romantic/emotional message,... we have committed sin!**
- **It is our responsibility that NO PERSON of the other gender will get the opportunity to misinterpret anything we say or do as romantic advances**



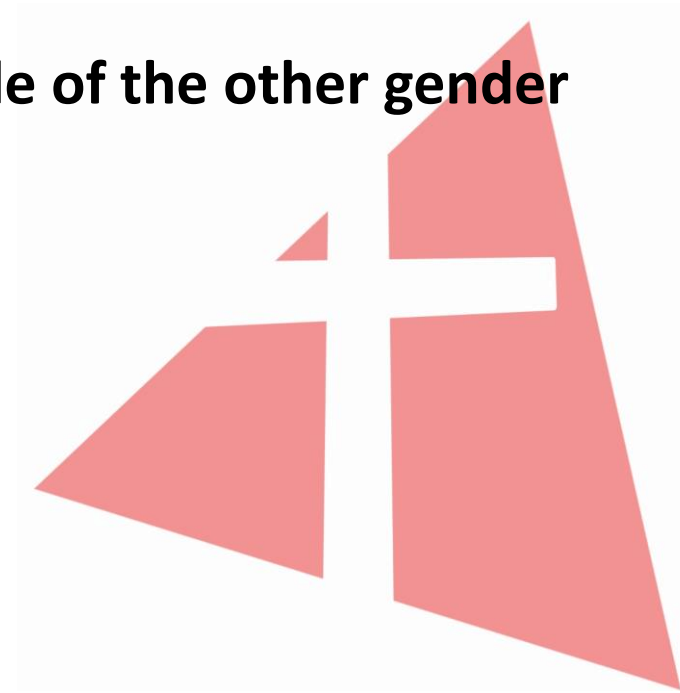
2 THINGS WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT

- **The tricky part: What's normal for me among friends could be interpreted as intimate by the other person**



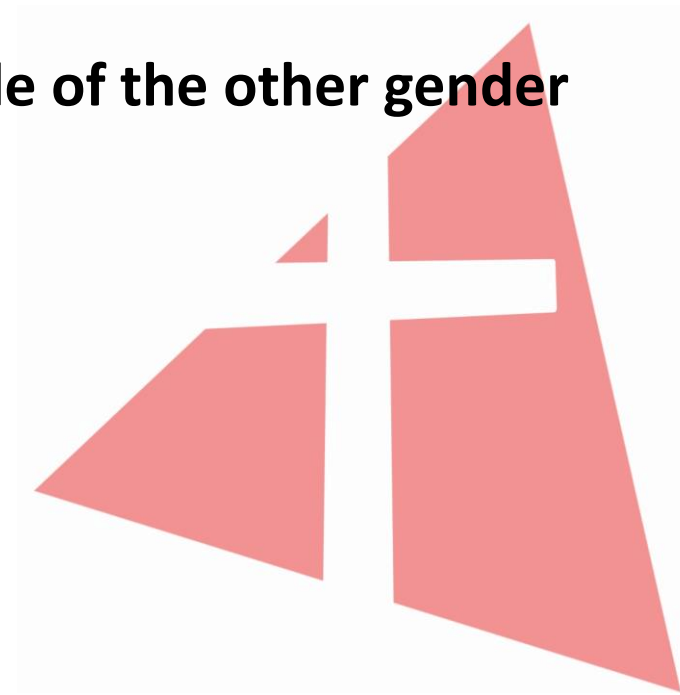
2 THINGS WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT

- **People who observe how we relate to people of the other gender**
 - We give room for accusations



2 THINGS WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT

- **People who observe how we relate to people of the other gender**
 - We can cause others to stumble



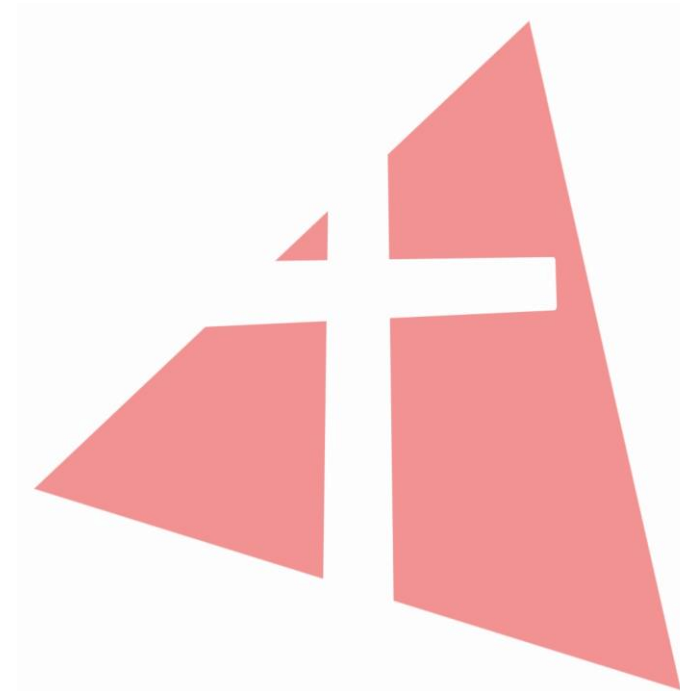
2 THINGS WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT

- **People who observe how we relate to people of the other gender**
 - Words are not enough to be ambassadors of Christ
 - Actions speak louder than words



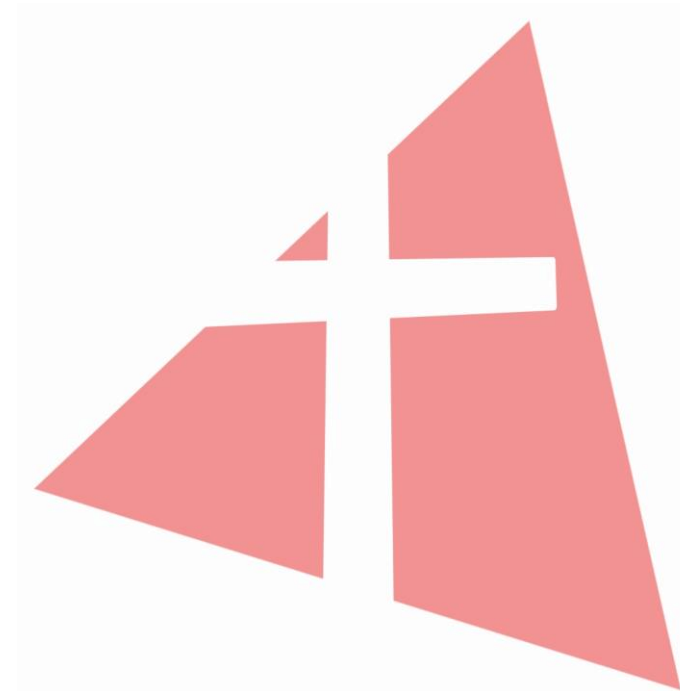
COMMON SOURCES OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS

- **One on one time**
- **Physical touches**
- **Gifts**
- **Compliments**



COMMON SOURCES OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS

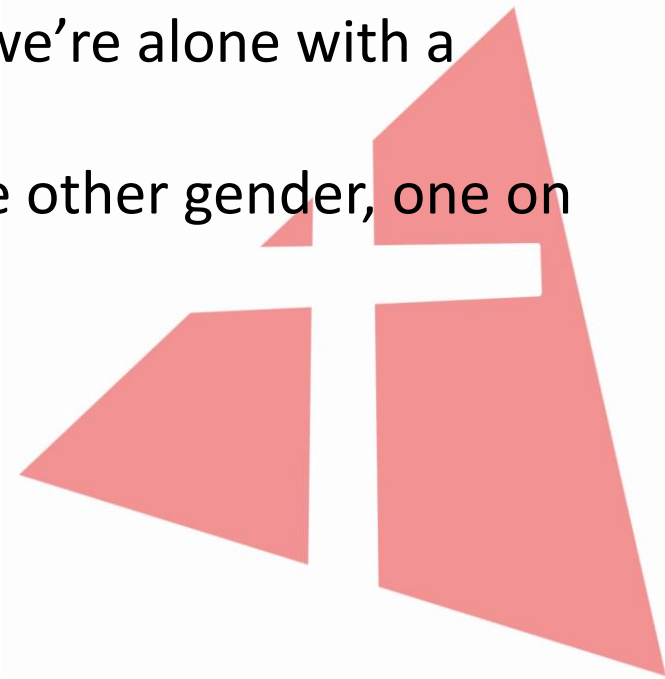
- **Special Care**
- **Clothes**
- **Flirtatious behavior**



SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

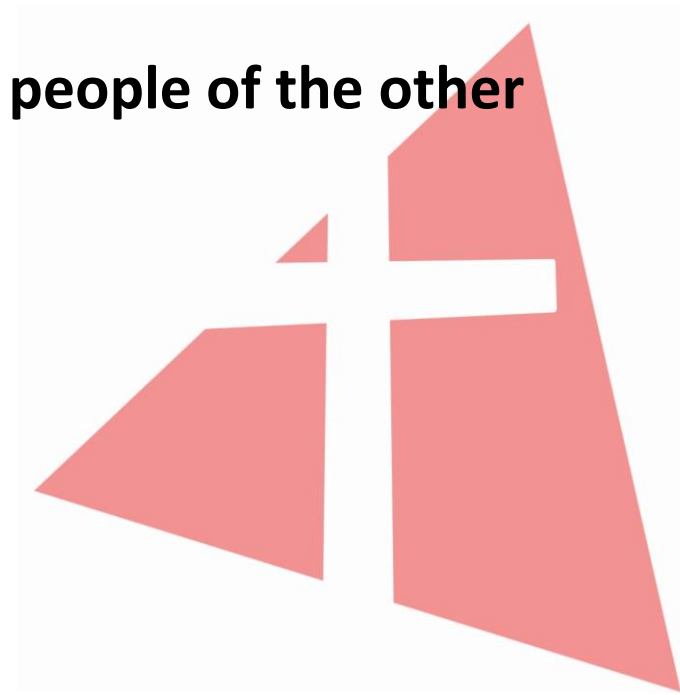
- **Some boundaries that we keep**

- We don't close the door behind us when we're alone with a person of the other gender
- We don't have a meal with a person of the other gender, one on one



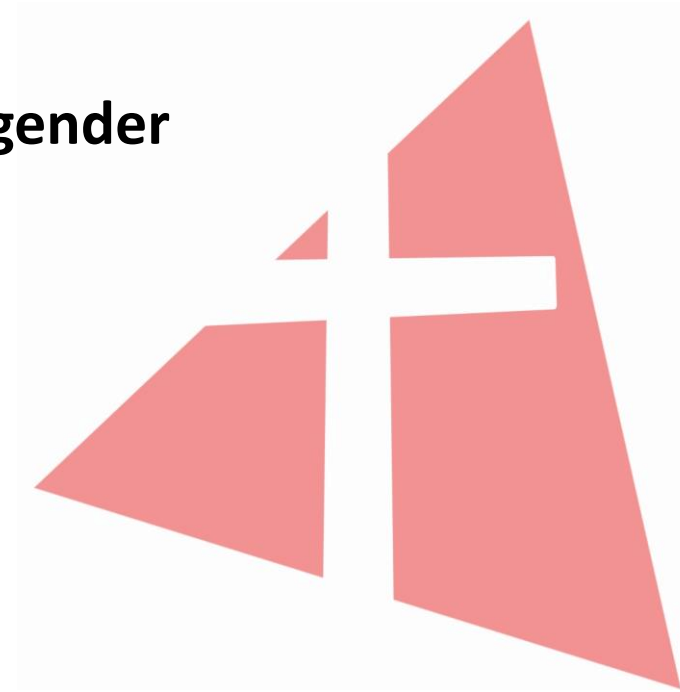
SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

- **We won't sleep over in the same place with people of the other gender, unless we are with each other**



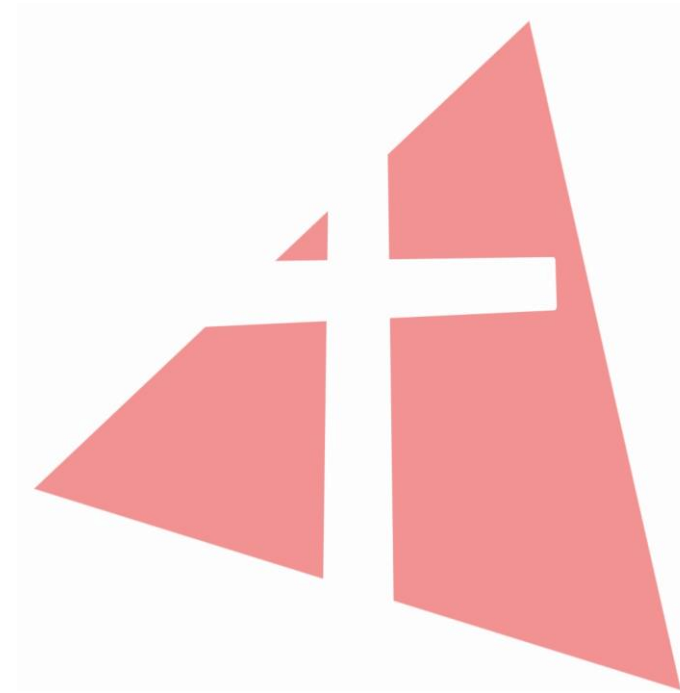
SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

- **We won't travel with a person of the other gender**



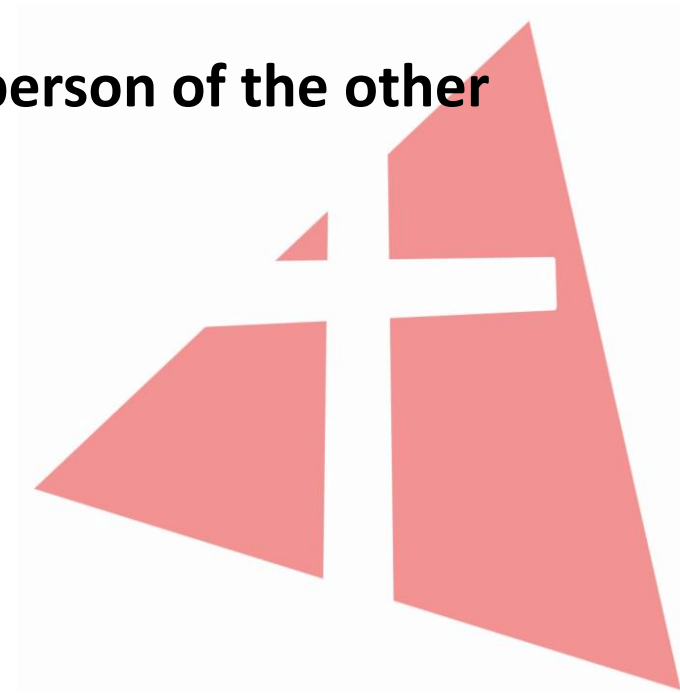
SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

- **We are very careful about physical touches**



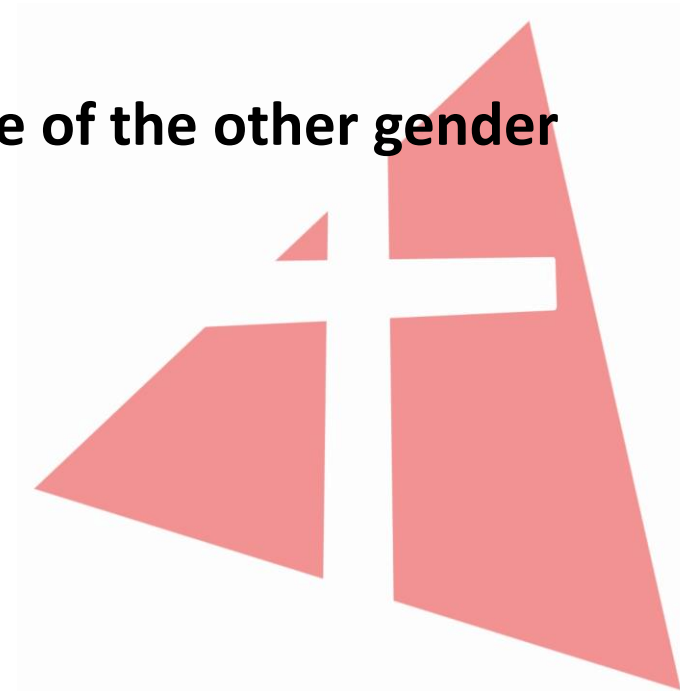
SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

- **We try to avoid praying one-on-one with a person of the other gender**



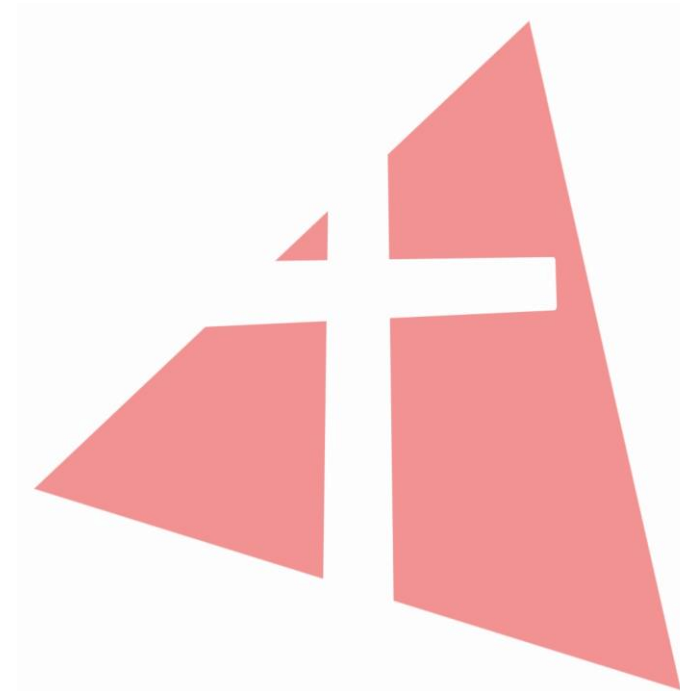
SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

- **We don't have our deepest talks with people of the other gender**



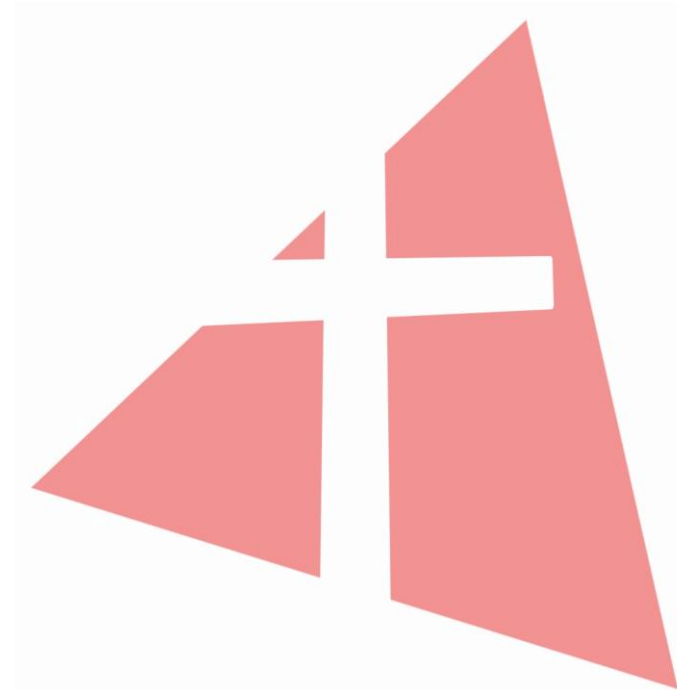
SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

- **We try to meet people in groups**
 - The more witnesses the better



SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

- **Be careful about social media**



MY PERSONAL GOAL

- I don't want to give any room for a person with evil intentions to get me in any kind of trouble with false accusations



WHAT IF I'M SINGLE?

- **What should I do when I consider someone as a future spouse?**



IN CONCLUSION

- **In general, the Body of Christ in the Western World today is not setting enough boundaries when it comes to cross-gender relationships**



IN CONCLUSION

- **Our prayer for Aletheia**

- We will have close and meaningful relationships
- At the same time, we will take God's commandment of "purity" very, very seriously

