

"An Eye-Catching Ethic"

Introduction

Raising the Bar on Love

1. The Radical **EXTENT** of Love (v. 27-28)
*We ought to love those who are **HARD** to love.*
 - a. Those who **THINK** against us.
 - b. Those who **SPEAK** against us.
 - c. Those who **ACT** against us.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (ESV) - *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.*
2. The Tangible **EXPRESSION** of Love (v. 29-31)
*We ought to love in **REAL** life.*
 - a. When we are **SHAMED**.
 - b. When we are **DEFRAUDED**.
 - c. When we are **PRESUMED** upon.
3. The Compelling **MOTIVATION** of Love (v. 32-36)
*We ought to love in a distinctive way that would be deserving of **REWARD** and that would reflect our identity as **CHILDREN** of God.*

1 Peter 2:18-21 (ESV) - *Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*
4. The Sobering **RECIPROCITY** of Love (v. 37-38)
*We ought to be convicted knowing that God will treat us **BASED ON** how we treat others.*