



WEEK 10 | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

1 John 3:11 For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

1 John 3:12-15 unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. The one who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

1 John 3:16-17 This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 Don't rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters with all purity.

_____ **love determines how we** _____ **other people**

1 Timothy 5:3 Support widows who are genuinely in need.

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

1 Timothy 5:4, 16 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them learn to practice godliness toward their own family first and to repay their parents, for this pleases God. ¹⁶ If any believing woman has widows in her family, let her help them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it can help widows in genuine need.

1 Timothy 5:5-8 The widow who is truly in need and left all alone has put her hope in God and continues night and day in her petitions and prayers; ⁶ however, she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. ⁷ Command this also, so that they will be above reproach. ⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his own family, especially for his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:9-15 No widow is to be enrolled on the list for support unless she is at least sixty years old, has been the wife of one husband, ¹⁰ and is well known for good works—that is, if she has brought up children, shown hospitality, washed the saints’ feet, helped the afflicted, and devoted herself to every good work. ¹¹ But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when they are drawn away from Christ by desire, they want to marry ¹² and will therefore receive condemnation because they have renounced their original pledge. ¹³ At the same time, they also learn to be idle, going from house to house; they are not only idle, but are also gossips and busybodies, saying things they shouldn’t say. ¹⁴ Therefore, I want younger women to marry, have children, manage their households, and give the adversary no opportunity to accuse us. ¹⁵ For some have already turned away to follow Satan.

Love is _____ with _____

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday’s sermon? Did you gain any new insights?
2. According to 1 John 3:11–18, how is biblical love different from the way our culture typically defines love? Where do you see culture redefining love in ways that conflict with Scripture?
3. 1 John says we “know we have passed from death to life because we love.” What are some practical, observable ways this kind of love should show up in a believer’s life? Where do you see growth in this area? Where is it still a struggle?
4. From 1 Timothy 5, what does it look like to love others with both compassion and wisdom (not enabling harmful behavior)? Why can this balance be difficult? Have you ever seen “help” actually hurt someone long-term?
5. 1 Timothy 5 emphasizes caring for your own family first. What does faithful, Christ-like responsibility look like in your current season of life? Are there any areas where you might be avoiding responsibility or “passing the buck”?
6. The sermon challenged areas like finances, time, gossip, and self-focus. Which of these areas most convicted you, and why? What is one specific step of repentance or obedience you can take this week to better reflect Christ-like love?