

# *Higher Standard of Love*

**Luke 6:32-36**

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- Screening of air conditioning contractors
- Importance of certification
- Prevalence of spiritual shysters
- The doctrinal test in measuring the genuineness of a Christian

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### **A. The TEST of LOVE**

1. Tell-tale sign of a genuine follower of Christ—John 13:35; 1 John 3:11, 16-19; 4:7-8, 11-12
2. Is loving a brother in Christ the same kind of love that the world has for its own?
  - a. The things we hold in common make it easier to love—Eph. 4
  - b. But the world operates according to the rules of...
    - 1) Reciprocity—Luke 6:32-34
    - 2) Self-protection
  - c. Whereas, Christ followers are called to a higher standard, the rule of LOVE!
    - 1) Giving oneself for the benefit of another without return
    - 2) Treating others as you would want to be treated.
3. Love as seen...
  - a. In loving one another in the body of Christ
  - b. In loving our spouse in a marriage relationship—Ephesians 5
4. Ultimate test: Loving one's enemies—Luke 6:35a

### **B. The TREATS of LOVE**

1. Our **Reward** will be great!—Luke 6:35
  - a. God promises to bless our work and everything we put our hands to if we generously and loving give to help others.- Deuteronomy 15
  - b. God promises that we will reap a bountiful harvest that comes in various forms—2 Cor. 9:8; Rom 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17
2. Our **Resemblance** of God's Character will be striking—Luke 6:35-36
  - a. We become a "child of God" by trusting in Christ, not by selfless love.—John 1:11-13
  - b. By loving our enemies we resemble the actions and character of our heavenly Father. Ps 25:8; 34:8; 136:1; 145:9; Acts 14:17
  - c. God's "common grace"—Acts 17:25
  - d. Our Goal—Luke 6:36 *"Be merciful as our Father is merciful"*