



## Study 5: Loving People, Loving the Word

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### Scanning

Main Texts: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

Other Texts: Matthew 22:37-39; Galatians 5:6; 1 John 4:8,16; Hebrews 4:12; John 17:17-19

Group discussion: In the Church Father Tertullian's day (160-220AD), people responded to Christians: "Look how they love one another!" and "How ready they are to die for one another!" Do you think people would respond like that to us today? Why or why not?

### Going Deeper

1. There are two commands in this section of 1 Peter: (1) Love one another deeply (see 1:22) and; (2) Crave spiritual milk (see 2:2). How does Peter argue the "how" and "why" of these two commands? Try to put his argument in your own words.
2. Paul talks about two eternal things: people and God's word. Why is that significant?
3. Give an example of how each of the following gritty "love principles" work in your life:
  - a. "Love is being willing to have your life complicated by the needs and struggles of people in this church without impatience or anger."
  - b. "Love is actively fighting the temptation to be critical and judgmental toward people in this church family, while looking for ways to encourage and praise."
  - c. Love is daily admitting to yourself and God that you are not able to love this way without God's protecting, providing, forgiving, rescuing, and delivering grace.
4. What is Peter talking about when he says that we should crave spiritual milk? Compare Psalm 42.

### Applying

- Identify someone who has been an encouragement to you, helped you grow spiritually, and determine to follow through and express appreciation to them.
- Peter uses the metaphor of a "new born baby". What metaphor would you use to describe your current level of spiritual hunger? What can you do about it?
- Where does the challenge to love others in our church family most need application in your life? Share a way that you plan to apply the truths from this passage in your daily life.