

Loving the Church

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Acts 20.
- B. Paul had a great love for the church, which reminds us that we need to have the same.
- C. Paul loved the church to the point of paying any price. (Colossians 1, 1 John 5)
- D. Love makes the difference in ministry. (1 Thessalonians 2:7)
- E. Certain things demonstrate Paul's love for the church.

II. His affection.

- A. Paul embraced the people.
- B. He demonstrated his affection physically.
- C. His affection was unashamed.

III. His giving.

- A. He collected money to meet the needs of the church however he could.
- B. We must be in the church not for what we get but for what we give.
- C. God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 8)

IV. His teaching.

- A. He maximized his calling.
- B. He had a tremendous sense of responsibility of completing what God had called him to do. (Colossians 1)

V. His persistence.

VI. His availability.

VII. The people loved Paul because Paul loved them.

Application Questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that it doesn't matter how we love so long as we love?

2. What resources can you free up to give more sacrificially?

3. What gifts or skills do you have that you can use to creatively love other people? Explain.
