

SERMON SERIES FROM HIGH POINT CHURCH

SUSTAINING

UNITY

STICKING TOGETHER  
IN FRACTIOUS TIMES

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## **NIV Proverbs 29:18**

**Where there is no revelation,  
the people cast off restraint;  
but he who keeps watch of the Law is blessed."**



# Our enmity was put to death in the death of Christ.

Ephesians 2:14, 16 "...he himself is our peace,  
who..has **destroyed** the barrier, the dividing wall of  
hostility.. through the cross by which he **put to  
death** their hostility.



**"I love you. I would rather die than hate you."**



**Jesus died to put away God's wrath.  
My hatred will kill us both worse.**

**Matt 5:21 – 24, Eph 2:11ff**







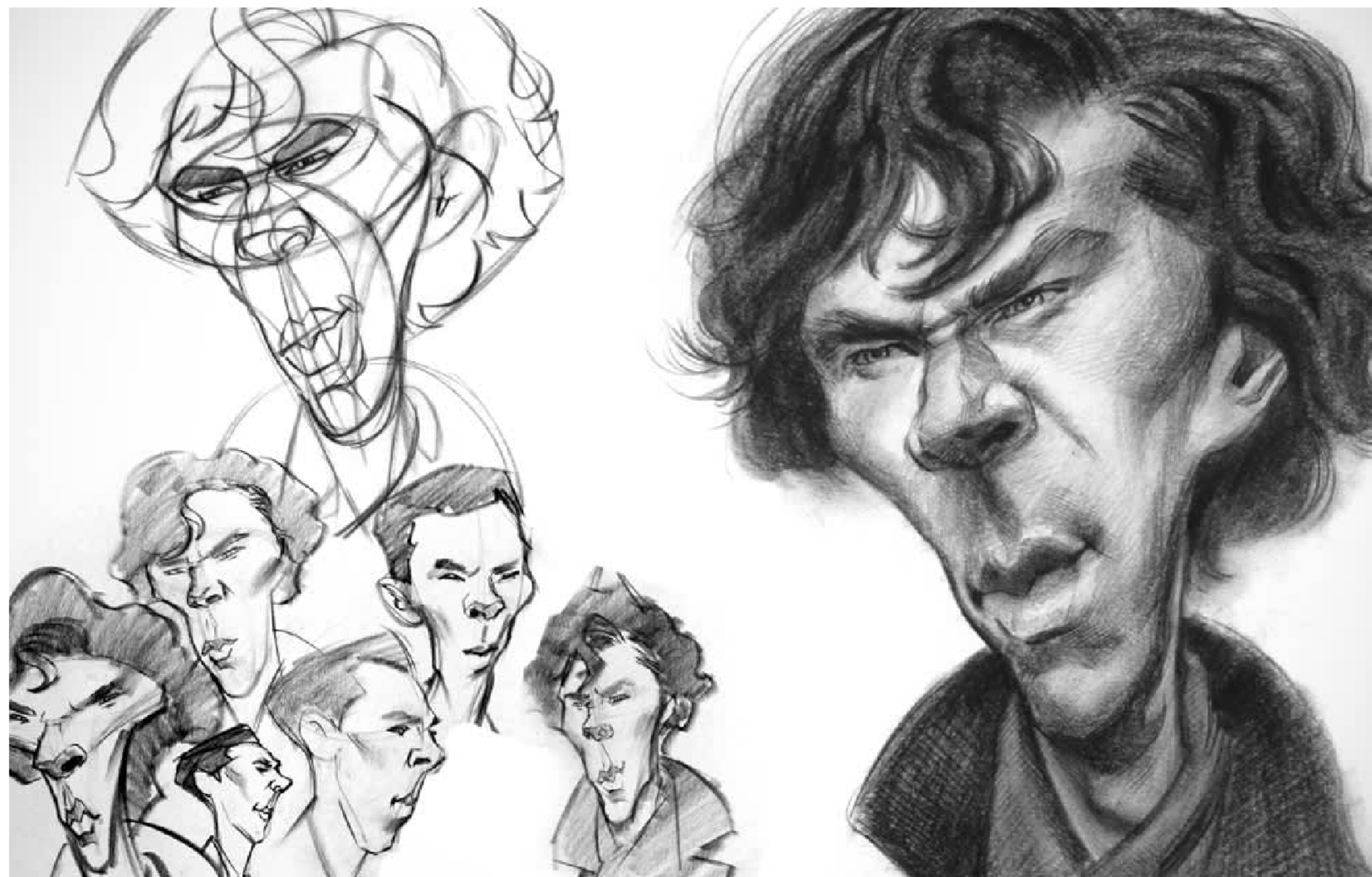
**So why do we wait?**

**How do we kill enmity in the body of Christ?**

**Taking the diagnosis of hostility and love  
one step deeper**



# 1. Love pursues portraits. Hostility craves caricatures.



**We can't accept the world's enmity factory**



# Descent into Enmity

1. Superiority/conceit
2. Separation
3. Caricature
4. Soft oppression/marginalization
5. Hard oppression/violence





# Descent into wrath

We do what God  
chose not to.

**I. Divine Superiority**

**2. Separation from sin**

**3. Let sin make us into a caricature**

**4. Soft condemnation—curse**

**5. Hard condemnation—hell**





# Fighting the Descent into Enmity

1. Superiority/conceit

2. Separation

3. Caricature

4. Soft oppression/marginalization

5. Hard oppression/violence

Humble compassion

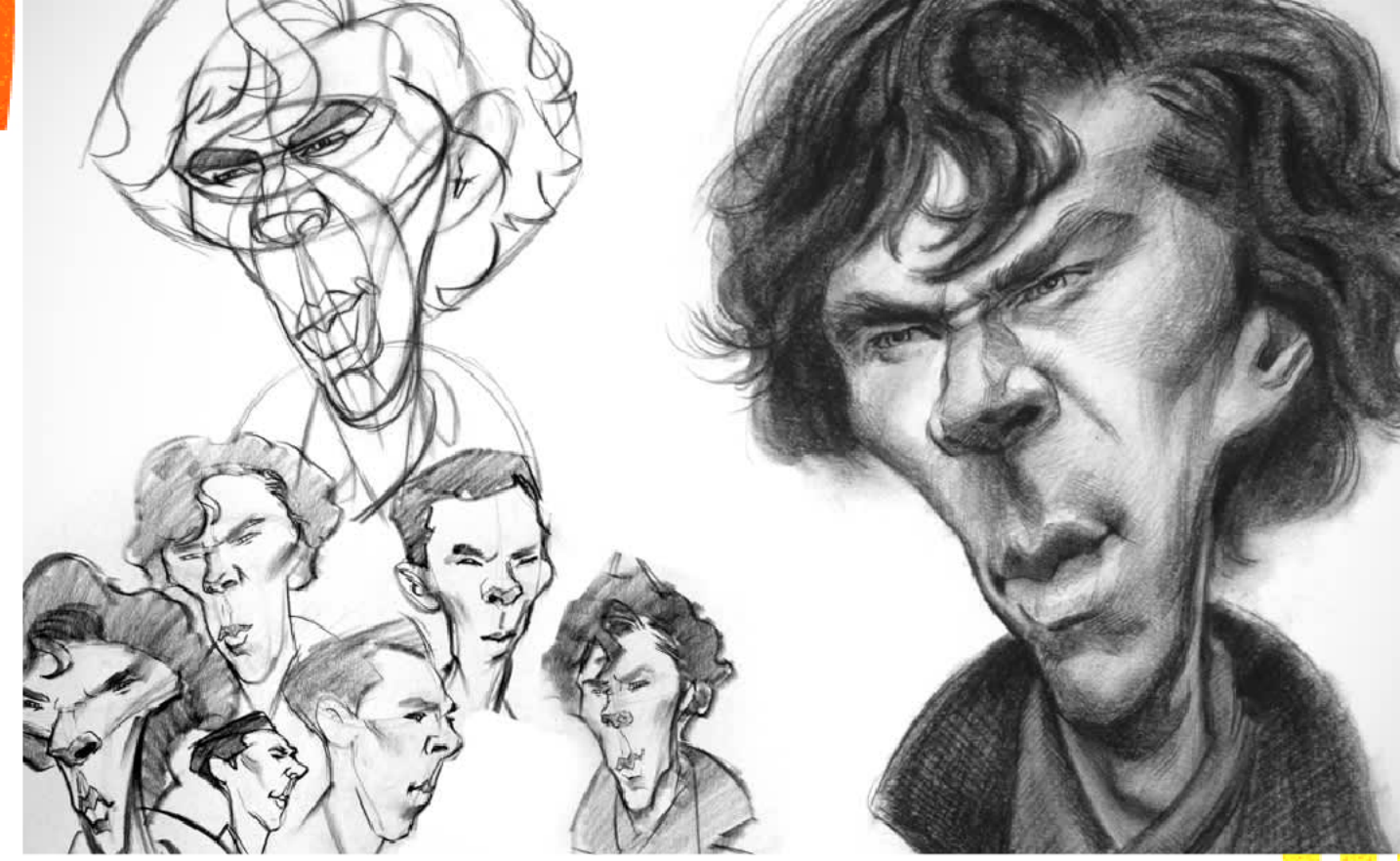
Showing up

Portrait





**1. Love pursues portraits.**



**2. Love shows up.**



**3. Love cultivates the good.**





## 2. Love shows up. Hostility separates.





**Kira Davis**



**"Good or bad, influence goes  
to those who show up."**





### 3. Hostility attacks enemies to beat them. Love invests in the good to win them.





## 2 Corinthians 5:18 – 20

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of **reconciliation**. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: **Be reconciled to God.**





# Fruits of investing in the good against hostility

1. Lessens our hypocrisy and their moral disillusionment
2. We better see our blindness and their resistance
3. We are better prepared and motivated for peacemaking





Jesus seems to test our faith (love) with people  
most unlike US  
and seemingly..  
most unlike **HIM**

**The "evil"**

Our enemies – Matt 5

**The "needy"**

"the least" – Matt 25



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