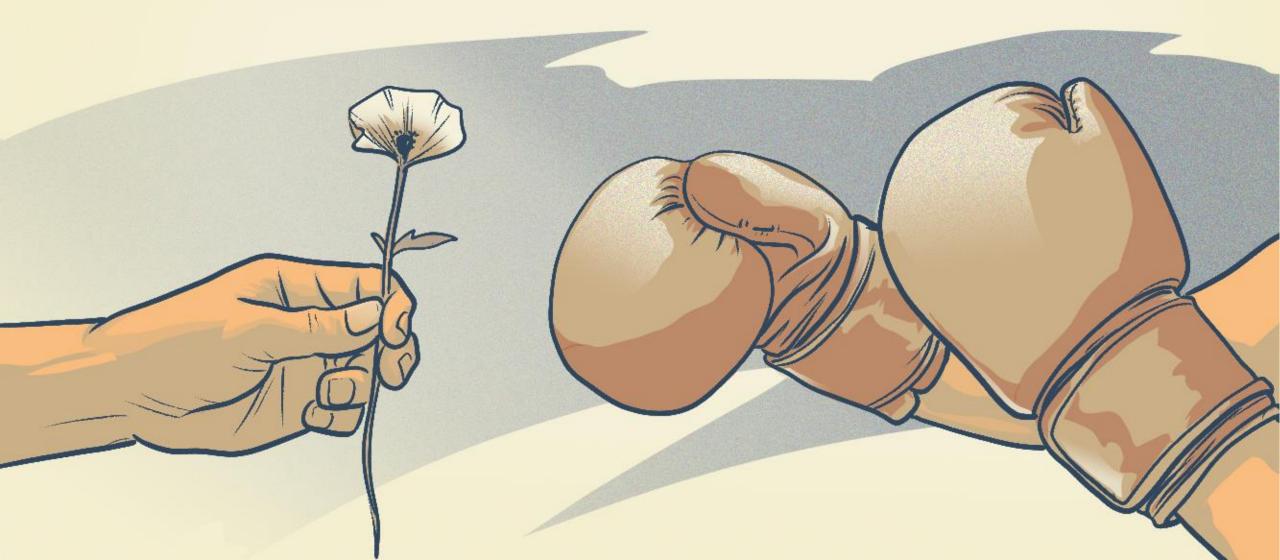




# ETHOS THE GUIDING BELIEFS AND IDEALS THAT CHARACTERIZE A COMMUNITY

<sup>27</sup> "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. <sup>28</sup> Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. 30 Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back.

## GOD'S NEW WORLD IS REVEALED IN OUR LOVE AND KINDNESS TOWARDS OTHERS



31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you. <sup>32</sup> "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!

34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. 35 "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid.

Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

<sup>1</sup> When you do a good deed, make sure you know who is benefiting from it; then what you do will not be wasted. 2 You will be repaid for any kindness you show to a devout person. If he doesn't repay you, the Most High will. 3 No good ever comes to a person who gives comfort to the wicked; it is not a righteous act.

#### Sirach 12

<sup>4</sup> Give to religious people, but don't help sinners. <sup>5</sup> Do good to humble people, but don't give anything to those who are not devout. Don't give them food, or they will use your kindness against you. Every good thing you do for such people will bring you twice as much trouble in return.

### Sirach 12

<sup>6</sup> The Most High himself hates sinners, and he will punish them. <sup>7</sup> Give to good people, but do not help sinners.

Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

## GOD'S COMPASSION IS SHOWN WHEN WE CARE FOR OTHERS UNCONDITIONALLY



<sup>37</sup> "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.



