

Follow God's Example

Love Like Jesus

Pastor Chris Engel

March 29th, 2026

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

John 19:28-42 (NIV)

... When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

• Love begins where self ends. (vs. 2; 28-30, 38-39; John 15:13; 1 John 3:16)

"Love is expensive! On the cross, Jesus didn't just show us what love looks like... He showed us what it costs."

• Love is messy! (vs. 31-37; vs. 40-42)

"On that day love didn't look like a miracle it looked like death and a burial. It looked like blood-stained hands, linen cloths, and a borrowed tomb. Because love is messy."

• Love is the point. (vs. 1-2; 1 John 4:8; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

"Love is not part of the crucifixion story — Love is the story!"