

3:16

1 John 3:16 - Sacrifice
March 20, 2016

Five times in 1st John, the apostle writes that believers are to love one another.

"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16
(NLT)

Love that is not sacrificial is not really love at all.

3 Kinds of Love

1. Covenant Love

- Love Your God

"You must not have any other god but me." Exodus 20:3

"And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength." Mark 12:3

- Love Your Spouse

"So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." Ephesians 5:33

Love and Respect - Emerson Eggerichs

- Love Your Kids

2. Family Love

If we are made in God's image, and He is in three persons, then at our core we are made for community. - Tim Keller

This love is consistent (Hebrews 10:24-25)

(SLIDE ONLY) "God not looking for a trophy wife (a Church just for looks)-he's looking for a covenant partner!"

This love is authentic (Acts 2:42-47)

So what does authentic love look like?

- Love one another (John 13:34, 15:12)
- Outdo one another in showing honor (Romans 12:10)
- Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- Comfort and agree with one another (2 Corinthians 13:11)
- Serve one another (John 13:1-20; Galatians 5:13)
- Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21)
- Be honest with one another (Colossians 3:9)
- Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Confess to one another (James 5:16)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)

This love is sacrificial

3. Outward Love

Final Challenge

Leadership Tip!

Love and leadership does not seem to go together, but it could not fit more perfectly. Our leadership style must be a reflection of Christ within us.

3:16 - LOVE**STARTER QUESTION:**

Have you ever known of someone that was a secret admirer? Who had strong feelings for someone but never let them know how they felt? How did the relation end?

MAIN IDEA:

Pastor Philip did a really great job of explaining what Biblical Love truly is and why it is important to show people around you what God's view of Love is all about. It sounds basic but it's because the world has polluted the meaning of love into something that can be very self-centered and destructive. Our part as Christ followers is to show people a different type of love that many of them have never seen before. – Sacrificial Love.

1 John 3:16 (NIV)

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

How does Jesus' statement “*And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters*” make you feel?

The word “lives” used in this verse comes from the Greek word “*psychē*”. The common usage of this word typically describes “lives” or “souls” as “the seat of feelings, desires, affections and aversions”, which is interesting when you think about it in context of what Jesus, is asking us to do.

How difficult would it be to set aside our “feelings, desires, affections and aversions” to show the sacrificial love Christ wants us to show?

What would be the hardest one to set aside?

Which would be the easiest?

It would be a mistake to take Jesus' words at the beginning of the sentence as a suggestion when he states we "ought" to lay down our lives. The word "ought" is the Greek word "*opheilō*" which has a very strong meaning "to be under obligation". When we look at situations where it is hard for us to set aside those **feelings, desires, affections and aversions**, Christ is saying for us to reflect on what He has already done for us personally.

Christ has paid our debt that we could never repay ourselves. We have an obligation to tell people of the Sacrificial Love we have already received.

Can anyone relate a time when you felt like you should have acted on this obligation but felt like there was a road block in front of you?

If you are not sure how to do that, it would be a great time to sign up for a Coastal 401 class even if you have gone through it before. The 401 class has been rewritten with all new material geared around helping Christ followers in telling the story of Christ's Love.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

I know that St. Patrick's Day is over, but his story is one that fits perfectly into this study of being able to set aside the things that keep us from laying down our lives for Christ. Briefly, for those who don't know the story, St. Patrick was taken from his home in Wales, England when he was just a young boy, and used as a slave in Ireland until he was a young man. The culture in Ireland at that time was pagan, very cruel and held no value on a human life. Somehow, St. Patrick escaped his captures and returned home.

Shortly after returning, St. Patrick met a missionary who spread God's word throughout England. St. Patrick accepted Christ and was baptized, after which he asked the missionary what should he do next. The missionary asked him to reflect on:

1 Corinthians 11:1;

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

- And told St. Patrick to go to the places that needed God's Love the most and to do what the missionary did for him.

Most people know the rest of the story where St. Patrick returned to the very people who enslaved him, just so they could hear the word of God. St. Patrick spent the next 30 years of his life in Ireland spreading God Love, and in doing so changed a culture.

What is God tell you to do to change the culture in your community?

FAMILY FOCUS

God's Love: Cookie Comparison

Here is a fast and easy way to talk about sacrificial love— especially God's love for us. Buy a giant cookie and have it decorated with the words "God's Love" in icing. Buy a pack of regular-sized chocolate chip cookies. Take one out of the box. Before group, arrange the giant cookie and the single cookie on two separate platters. Keep the cookies covered and talk to kids about different kinds of love. Talk about how Susie loves Johnny, how kids love parents and how pet owners love their pets. Share about whom you love and how they make you feel. Of course, keep everything PG!

Then it is time for the big reveal. Show the two platters. Tell kids that the small cookie is the love we have for each other and all the kinds of love you talked about. Show kids the giant cookie. Tell kids this is God's love. Explain to kids that God's love is deeper, bigger and better than any other kind of love you can receive.

This is how to show how His love is so big- He gave up his Son for us. You can go as deep as you want on this topic depending on the age of the kids. But ultimately, Jesus died on the cross for us because He loved us so much. This is sacrificial love at its finest.

Then eat the cookies, after the blessing!