

Perfect By Love: Losing All to Gain All

When it comes to loving God it may not always look like you're gaining in life. But the truth is just the opposite!

When Winning Looks Like Losing

When it's true Agape love it will look like a loss to others, but a victory in the sight of God.

Matthew 27:32-42

New Living Translation

32 Along the way, they came across a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene,[a] and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. 33 And they went out to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). 34 The soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with bitter gall, but when he had tasted it, he refused to drink it.

35 After they had nailed him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.[b] 36 Then they sat around and kept guard as he hung there. 37 A sign was fastened above Jesus' head, announcing the charge against him. It read: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." 38 Two revolutionaries[c] were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

39 The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. 40 "Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!"

41 The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus. 42 "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him!"

John 10:17-18

New Living Translation

17 "The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again.

18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."

- In order for love to be godly/Agape there must be two things present at all times, obedience and sacrifice.
- What is love in the sight of God? It's willingly and cheerfully giving Him what He asks for.
- When it's true Agape love it will look like a loss to others, but a victory in the sight of God. Giving your money to the poor, time to God.

During worship once I asked God a question. I told Him I know what your love for me looks like it's Jesus dying on the cross.

But what does the greatest expression of my love for you look like? He said, "It's you dying on the cross.

Galatians 2:20

New Living Translation

20 My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- The new self is spiritual and in Christ.
- Thoughts, words, and actions all authorized by Christ. Do they pass the life and peace test?
- Romans 8:6 New Living Translation
So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.
- You're the best version of you, while you're loving God.

Sometimes Winning Looks Like Losing

Matthew 10:37-39

New Living Translation

37 “If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. 38 If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. 39 If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

Mark 10:28-30

New Living Translation

28 Then Peter began to speak up. “We’ve given up everything to follow you,” he said.

29 “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, 30 will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life.

The Blessing of Giving God What He Asks For

Matthew 22:37-39

New Living Translation

37 Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.

So if to love is to give God what He asks for what does that look like. It looks like an opportunity to truly be perfected by His love.

Why do we need this perfection?

1 John 4:17-19

New Living Translation

17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

18 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 19 We love each other[a] because he loved us first.

- We need to be perfected by love to we can rid our lives of all fear.

2 Timothy 1:7-8

New Living Translation

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

8 So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News.

What is the love that God wants, what does He require us to give?

Matthew 22:37-39

New Living Translation

37 Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'^[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

- What is love in the sight of God? It's willingly and cheerfully giving Him what He asks for.

John 14:23

New Living Translation

23 Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.

If you truly love me give me all of your heart for a sanctuary.

Revelation 2:4-5

New Living Translation

4 “But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first!^[a] 5 Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don’t repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

Lord I give you all of my heart as a possession so that you can possess me here.

If you truly love me give me all of your soul for a sanctuary.

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

New Living Translation

12 “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul. 13 And you must always obey the Lord’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good.

- When we love God we give Him our souls so that He may have our will and desire.
- This gives us the ability to be holy as He is holy.

Romans 5:5

New Living Translation

5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Lord I give you all of my soul as a possession so that you can possess me here.

If you truly love me give me all of your mind for a sanctuary.

John 4:24

New King James Version

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

What is it to worship in spirit and truth?

Romans 12:1-2

New Living Translation

A Living Sacrifice to God

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b]

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 8:5-10

New King James Version

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be [a]carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the [b]carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Lord I give you all of my mind as a possession so that you can possess me here.

The Blessing Song by the Praise and Worship Ministry