

HANDOUT Memorial Day 2023—The Christian's Call to Sacrifice 1 John 3:16-18

Tomorrow We Celebrate Memorial Day... A Day We Remember **"THE SACRIFICE"**. *"SACRIFICE" is a Word that Comes to Mind when We Think about the Truths Embedded in the Gospel.*

- There are a Plethora of Bible Verses about Sacrifice that Explain Why Jesus Died for Our Sins and How We Should Live Out Selfless Love in Our Own Lives.

READ John 3:16-18 READ Hebrews 9:28

- KEY: Christ Did What Could Not Be Done By the Old Testament Priests...They Sacrificed Daily for Mans Sin...But It Would NOT Meet God's Standard! A PERFECT AND SINLESS SACRIFICE!

READ Hebrews 10:1-7 *Simply...This Means that If Christ Would NOT Have Humbled Himself, and Went to the Cross to Be Sacrificed...You, I and All Mankind Would Have NO HOPE!*

- We Were Meant to Live According to God's Will and for His Glory. After the Fall... In Genesis 3, The Question was, How Will this Gulf Between People and God Ever be Bridged?
- Jesus Came as the Only Possible Answer to this Question. He Met God's Moral Requirement in Every Way by Keeping His Law Without One Instance of Failure. JESUS WAS SINLESS
- *We Were in a State of Impending Doom, Without Any Ability to Rescue Ourselves, SO... God Sent Jesus as the Ultimate Reminder, of the Depth of Our Need.*

Jesus Doesn't Just Preach Life or Provide Life...HE IS LIFE". Eph. 2:1-2 talks about our dire condition apart from the work of Jesus: "and you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked."

- Jesus was that "Life-Giver". He Came to Conquer the Ultimate Result of Sin... Eternal Death.
- He came as Life to Defeat the Power of Death and Ignite Eternal Life in the Hearts of His Redeemed Children. Through His Death, Burial and Resurrection Jesus Rendered Satan Inoperative!

KEY: Christ's Gift of Selfless Love, Provides Salvation to Every One Who Believes!

Jesus Wants Us to Remember that...We Are To Do The Same! We Are to Take the Responsibility God Has Placed on Us and Every Believer...Which is to Be Willing to Sacrifice for Others! **READ 1 John 3: 16-18**

As Jesus Laid Down His Life, Taking Our Sin Upon Himself and Nailing It On The Cross, We are to Look to Him who Loved Us So Lavishly and We are to Love Others with this Love that We have Seen and Experienced from Him.

J.I. Packer says: "Our Love is to Express Our Gratitude for God's Gracious Love To Us, and Model It To The World"

7 Ways to Practice Sacrificial Love

1-Look to Jesus. He is the Greatest Example of Sacrificial Love in Both Life & Death.

- The life that Jesus lived was marked by serving others...This is beautifully captured in the washing of the disciples' feet.
- The greatest Act of Sacrificial Love is seen on the Cross where "Jesus came Not to be Served But to Serve, and to Give His Life as a Ransom for Many" (Mark 10:45).

2. Sacrificial Love Modeled by Jesus is to be Displayed in Our Family Relationships.

- Family Relationships are to be an Example of Sacrificial Love Working Out on a Daily Basis.
- The Husband Loves His Wife as Jesus Loves the Church and Gives Himself for Her!
- The parent/child relationship can also Reflect this Sacrificial Love as Parents Offer Up their Lives to Care for their Children.
- To quote J.I. Packer again: "This sacrificial love involves giving, spending, and impoverishing ourselves up to the limit for their well-being"
- This can describe the life of a spouse or a parent who strives to live a life of sacrificial love within their family.

3. Our Sacrificial Love is Worship to God

- When we seek to love others as Jesus loved us, we are displaying that sacrificial love found at the cross of Calvary to the world.
- *Our sacrificial love for others is a response of worship and praise to Him who laid down His life for us. We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).* \

4. We Love God by Following and Obeying Him...Obedience is a Mark of Our Love for God. John 14:21 *"whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me".*

- Obedience to God will Mean Sacrifice to Other Things, But We Can Obey Because He was Obedient to Death on the Cross (Philippians 2:8).
- *We can expect to know even more of the Lord as we walk closely with Him and this will affect how we live our lives.*

5. Count Everything as a Loss in Comparison to Knowing God!

C.S. Lewis said *"Humility is Not Thinking Less of Yourself, it's Thinking of Yourself Less!"* As we seek to love others sacrificially, we are not devaluing ourselves, but thinking more of Jesus and others.

- As we lay down our lives, we are in a position to sacrificially love others, rather than putting ourselves first.

A life following Jesus will mean a Closer Communion with Him which will Flow Out to Other People.

6. Love and Serve the Body of Christ - the Church *There seems to be so Much Today that Divides the Church...And the World Watches and Questions What We Believe!*

- The True Mark of the Believer is to Love One Another with a Sacrificial Love, Spurring One Another On toward Love and Good Deeds.
- Jesus said that all people will know that we are His disciples if we have love for one another (John 13:35).

We Need to Lay Down Our lives for One Another, Serving and Supporting each other.

7. Love Those that are Marginalized in Society

- Jesus Loved those who were Outsiders in Society.
- He Touched and Healed those with Diseases and Sickness.
- He Dined with Tax Collectors and Sinners to the Shock of the Religious Leaders of the Day.
- He Spoke to Women and Shared Truth with Those that had Questionable Pasts!

The Agape Love of God Breaks Down Every Barrier...And Challenges Us to Sacrifice For All People Just as Christ Did For Us and For those We Remember on this Memorial Day.

"Life Point" "Nothing of Spiritual Significance Comes Without Sacrifice. Your Spirituality will Always be Measured by the Size of Your Sacrifice".