

## Maximum Joy: The Meaning of Sacrifice

May 30-31, 2015

1 John 4:10 (New International Version 1984)

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

**INTRODUCTION:** What does love look like?

### The Meaning of Sacrifice

**FOUNDATION:** God's love for us in Christ.

- 1 John 4:7-8, <sup>7</sup> *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.* – (New International Version 1984)
- 1 John 4:9b-10, <sup>9</sup> *This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.* – (The Message)
- 1 John 4:14-15 <sup>14</sup> *We have seen and can testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God has God living inside, and that person lives in God.* – (New Century Version)

**FUEL:** God's love at work in us.

- 1 John 4:13 *We know that we live in him and he lives in us because he has given us his Spirit.* – (GOD'S WORD)
- 1 John 4:16 *We have known and believed that God loves us. God is love. Those who live in God's love live in God, and God lives in them.* – (GOD'S WORD)
- 1 John 4:19 *We love because he first loved us.* – (New International Version 1984)

**FRUIT:** God's love through us to reach others.

- 1 John 4:11-12 <sup>11</sup> *So, my loved ones, if God loved us so sacrificially, surely we should love one another.* <sup>12</sup> *No one has ever seen God with human eyes; but if we love one another, God truly lives in us. Consequently God's love has accomplished its mission among us.* – (The Voice)
- 1 John 4:18 *Where God's love is, there is no fear, because God's perfect love drives out fear. It is punishment that makes a person fear, so love is not made perfect in the person who fears.* – (New Century Version)
- 1 John 4:20-21 <sup>20</sup> *If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see?* <sup>21</sup> *The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.* – (The Message)

**CONCLUSION:** The Beauty of Community.

# G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.

Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

**Get each day's GPS** downloaded to your computer/phone/etc. by going to this link [clcm-gps.com](http://clcm-gps.com) or subscribing through **Feedly.com** (or other RSS Reader) to receive daily updates.

**Monday:** Read *1 John 4:7-8*. How would you explain the meaning of "love" to a child in a way that child could understand? Why does love have its origin in God? How is the love shown by those born of God different?

**Tuesday:** Read *1 John 4:9-10*. How is the supernatural love of God different from the superficial idea of love that we so often hold?

**Wednesday:** Read *1 John 4:13-16*. How has your increasing love for God increased your understanding of God's love for you? Who are you praying for to know and experience God's love in Jesus Christ?

**Thursday:** Read *1 John 4:18-19*. What happens if love does not begin with God? Why does love cast out fear? What fear do you need to let God's love cast out from your life?

**Friday:** Read *1 John 4:11-12*. What would Christian love look like if Christ's example was truly followed? How can you follow the example of love He displayed on the Cross?

**Saturday:** Read *1 John 4:20-21*. Why does John combine loving God with loving your neighbor? How does loving one influence your love for the other? Where might you need God to fill your loving cup to overflowing in loving your "neighbor"?

### Going Deeper

Read *The 5 Love Languages* by Gary Chapman.