



B6-C04-S01

Dying for the Brethren: Love Proven by Sacrifice

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

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Rev 1/08/2025. Pg. 1

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Rev 1/08/2025. Pg. 2

1 John 3:16 **Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

I. True Love Defined

Scripture defines love by obedience and sacrifice, not emotion, sentiment, or intention. Christ's love was proven when He obeyed unto death, not merely when He spoke (Philippians 2:8).

To love God is to obey Him, and obedience is the only real proof of love. **"If ye love Me, keep My commandments." (John 14:15)**

"He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar." (1 John 2:4)

The world says, "Stay true to yourself," but the gospel says, "Die to yourself." Identity in Christ is not preserved through self-expression but through surrender. Love proven by sacrifice begins with the death of the old identity and the birth of the new.

The apostles' transformation proves this: Peter's fear became boldness, John's wrath became love, and Paul's pride became servanthood. Love changed their nature, not their names. **Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children." (Ephesians 5:1)**

We are not called to imitate God as actors but to follow Him as sons. Pretending love imitates; obedient love follows.

Love that does not move is not love at all. Faith without obedience is dead, and the church exists to act, not to admire.

Love is the root, obedience the fruit. Those who only begin in love are called; those who continue in obedience are chosen.

Scripture never separates faith, love, and obedience; all of them manifest through action. Good works are not payment; they are proof.

Love proven by sacrifice cannot be separated from truth proven by obedience. Many claim to love Christ but reject His commandments, proving their love false.

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Rev 1/08/2025. Pg. 3

II. Love That Costs Nothing Is Worth Nothing

“If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23) Christ did not invite men to admire Him but to die with Him.

Cheap love avoids pain; divine love embraces it. True love always bears cost, whether comfort, pride, convenience, reputation.

“To obey is better than sacrifice.” (1 Samuel 15:22)

When Christ becomes Lord, He is not added to our life, He replaces it entirely (Galatians 2:20). His kingdom cancels the laws of self. Love that refuses to change identity has not yet bowed to the King.

Just as a new king establishes new laws, Christ commands a new culture of obedience. The one who still rules his own life cannot yet die for another.

Involvement begins where ownership ends. Whatever owns us controls us. While salvation is offered freely to all, Scripture distinguishes between being called to believe and being chosen for faithful service and endurance.

Love that costs nothing has produced many empty churches. Those who call Christ “Lord” but refuse to act for His brethren deny Him in their works. The world calls obedience legalism, yet the Word calls it love. “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not grievous.” (1 John 5:3)

III. The Pattern Set by Christ

“As the Father gave Me commandment, even so I do.” (John 14:31) Christ’s love was not independent, it was submitted.

“If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love.” (John 15:10)

Marriage shows that love always demands transformation. A husband loves by giving; a wife loves by submitting; both surrender self for unity. Christ did the same with His bride, the church and called us to do likewise for each other. “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.” (Ephesians 5:25)

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Rev 1/08/2025. Pg. 4

The apostles did not follow Christ to keep their lives but to lose them. In losing themselves, they found Him. That is love's pattern: transformation through surrender.

Holiness is not isolation from the world but participation in God's will. Involvement is the cross in motion.

The cross is the test of every calling. Christ was called to redeem but chosen to obey unto death.

Christ never separated truth from love. His cross was the collision of both, love obeying truth at any cost.

“I must work the works of Him that sent Me while it is day.” (John 9:4) Love works while it can.

IV. The Call to Die for the Brethren

“Hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.” (1 John 3:19)

To die for the brethren rarely means physical death. It means sacrificing comfort, ambition, and resources to build another's faith.

Discipleship and involvement cannot be separated. To present our bodies as a living sacrifice is to serve in motion. **“I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.” (2 Timothy 4:6)**

“Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy.” (Philippians 2:17)

Many fail to love the brethren because they forget who they are in Christ. Spiritual amnesia turns servants into spectators. Forgetting identity leads to self-preservation, but remembering who we are restores sacrifice.

Peter's denial was not because he stopped loving Christ but because he forgot who he was. When he remembered, he died to fear and lived for truth.

Every time we withhold love, we act as if we have forgotten our identity. The cure is remembrance, remembering the One who laid His life down for us.

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Rev 1/08/2025. Pg. 5

When God called Abraham, He first separated him from sin and then from self, calling him to obedience that cost him everything. **“By faith Abraham obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.” (Hebrews 11:8)** To die for the brethren also means dying to false doctrine. True love will test every spirit to protect others from deception.

Works are not optional expressions of faith; they are its breath. Transformation is not emotion; it is crucifixion of the old nature.

V. The Test of Love in the Church

“If a man say, ‘I love God,’ and hateth his brother, he is a liar.” (1 John 4:20)

Scripture does not evaluate love by confession but by conduct. Forgetfulness is disobedience in slow motion. A believer who forgets who he is in Christ will eventually forget whom he serves.

The church that forgets its covenant behaves like a marriage that forgets its vows, still legally joined but emotionally divided. **“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.” (Revelation 3:19)**

True fellowship is not built on shared interest but shared identity. The moment we lose sight of who we are in Him, we stop seeing others as brethren and start treating them as burdens.

A biblical church is not a crowd but a covenant body joined by obedience. The chosen are not offended by correction but shaped by it.

Many claim love while living in lawlessness. Christ said, “Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”

Real love confronts lies. Those who refuse correction prove they prefer deceit over truth.

The proof of love is continuation in truth. The moment we depart from sound doctrine, we stop walking in love.

Modern religion has redefined love as tolerance, faith as opinion, and obedience as legalism.

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Rev 1/08/2025. Pg. 6

VI. The Reward of Sacrificial Love

“Love beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.” (**1 Corinthians 13:7**)

“Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone.” (**John 12:24**)

Memory fuels endurance; forgetfulness kills it. Those who remember His promises endure every cost with joy, knowing their labor is not in vain.

“By works was faith made perfect.” (**James 2:22**)

“He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.” (**Hebrews 5:9**)

The chosen are those whose love endures unto obedience at the end “He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” (**Matthew 24:13**). Every act of obedience separates truth from falsehood. The faithful endure because they refuse deceit, and their endurance becomes their crown.

VII. Conclusion

Identity in Christ is the soil where all love grows. If we forget who we are, we forget how to love. But when we remember, we die daily and rise in Him again.

Forgetfulness breeds rebellion; remembrance breeds obedience. Those who remember their identity will never stop laying down their lives for the brethren.

Truth and love cannot be divided. The cross joined both forever, love proven by obedience and obedience proven by truth.

The apostles never changed the message because love never changes its truth.

The proof of love is obedience; the proof of obedience is good works; and the proof of good works is endurance unto the end.

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Rev 1/08/2025. Pg. 7

The church will be known not by its music or multitude but by the measure of its cross.

“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)

Summary

Love is the fruit of obedience.

Obedience is the root of sacrifice.

Sacrifice proves love for God and for the brethren.

Faith that acts is faith that lives.

Love that gives is love that lasts.

The church will stand by one measure alone, its willingness to die for the brethren.

Love proven by sacrifice is the final evidence that faith was real.

Related Studies and Cross-References

- **B3-C01-S02** - *Identity in Christ and the Danger of Spiritual Amnesia*
- **B3-C02-S01** - *Love Proven Only Through Obedience*
- **B3-C02-S02** - *Good Works: Evidence, Not Earning*
- **B3-C02-S03** - *Continuing in the Apostles' Doctrine*
- **B3-C02-S04** - *Truth or Deceit: Testing What You Believe*
- **B3-C03-S02** - *Called and Chosen; Set Apart Through Obedience*
- **B3-C04-S01** - *Involvement, Service, and Obedience as the Proof of Faith*

Each of these expands the revelation of how love, obedience, truth, and sacrifice unite to form the character of Christ in the believer.

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Rev 1/08/2025. Pg. 8