

TRUE LOVE GOES EXTRA

MARCH 14, 2021

WORSHIP

Can't Stop Singing,
You Are My King,
Wonderful Cross

WELCOME

What “go extra” loving act have you experienced either in your childhood, or as an adult? How did that kind of love affect you?

WORD

READ IT!

1 JOHN 3:16-18

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ But whoever has worldly goods and sees his brother or sister in need, and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God remain in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let's not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

PARAPHRASE IT!

Restate the verses in your own words.

TALK ABOUT IT!

- What did you like about these verses?
- What did you learn about God?
- What did you learn about following Jesus?
- What did you learn about loving extra?

POINT IT OUT!

There are many distortions of love today and many of us are not living completely because we are not loving completely. Something is missing in our lives because there is something missing in our love. The definition of love which is “an unconditional commitment towards an imperfect person, seeking their highest good which often requires sacrifice, resulting in God's glory” sets the premise that **True Love goes EXTRA:**

TRUE LOVE IS EXTRA COSTLY

True love will always cost us something because love “often requires sacrifice”. **1 John 3:16** tells us of Jesus laying down His life for us. This laying down of life was with His full knowledge. It was done purposefully. The Greek word used is “**tithemi**” which means to “give up” or “to put down” just like a warrior in battle puts down his weapon. This is the kind of sacrificial love demonstrated by: mothers who give up their time to take care of their children; husbands who give time and effort to take care of their wives as Christ loved the church as in **Ephesians 5:25**; frontliners who serve by taking care of patients especially in this time of pandemic putting even their lives on the line; and those who gave up their very lives to share the love of Christ.

It could also be giving up a person or relationship if doing so honors God. It is not sacrificing for the sake of sacrifice. The power lies in what we do it for. Christ's demonstrated **tithemi** because his love for us cost him his life for it was our greatest need (**John 15:13**). Charles Spurgeon articulated it best when he said “Ah, Lord Jesus! I never knew Thy love till I understood the meaning of Thy death.” Understanding Christ's love for us will move us to do what pleases God; be it laying down our time, our comfort, or giving up anything or anyone that gets in the way of our fellowship with God.

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WORD

TRUE LOVE IS EXTRA GIVING

By nature, we are takers. We usually look at a situation and ask what we can get from it instead of what we can contribute or give but in **1 John 3:17** we read **“But whoever has worldly goods and sees his brother or sister in need, and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God remain in him.” That only means true love gives out of our resources.**

As a missionary was about to conclude her mission trip, the chief came up to her and gave her a chicken but she politely declined accepting the gift knowing that one chicken is food for the community for a week. The chief replied that no one is too poor to give, nor too rich to receive. This reminds us that when we give, we do not look at our standard of living. We are to challenge our standard of giving. We look at our heart's condition and give not to appease our conscience, but to give with the intention of cheerfully blessing others (**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**).

TRUE LOVE IS EXTRA EXPRESSIVE

True love goes beyond words. We love according to the truth of God's Word. It is not just loving those who are easy to love, but even those who are difficult to love (**Luke 6:27-28**).

True love must be seen and felt. This often entails sacrifice. Christ demonstrated this sacrificial love when He gave His life for us on the cross. He saved us from sin and He gave glory to the Father. In loving others we are to ask two things: **“how can I love to make others come to the saving knowledge of Jesus”** and **“in loving this person how can I give glory to God?”**. When we love, our motivation should always be to bring glory to God.

JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE

He loves us **extra costly**. It cost Him His life. His love is **extra giving** because He gave us eternal life. He exemplified an **extra expressive** love because He didn't just talk about love. He died on the cross for our sins. In **Hebrews 12:2** it says, **“looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”** Love entails sacrifice. But why should we go extra? It is for the joy set before us. We love like Christ when we love sacrificially. May we continually be filled with Christ's love and love others EXTRA to the glory of God!

WORKS

APPLY IT!

Based on this lesson on TRUE LOVE GOES EXTRA, write down your action point to apply what you learned. Make it your “I will...” statement and follow the S.M.A.R.T. guideline to come up with a do-able action point.

- Simple
- Measurable
- Appropriate
- Realistic
- Time-bound

“I will _____
_____”

SHARE IT!

Who will you share these truths to this week?

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that God will work in your heart to love others sacrificially by going the extra mile. This week, think of ways how you can love others even if it would cost you materially, and express it beyond what we usually do. Continually pray for a change of heart leading to changes in behavior. Exemplify a CHRIST-like love to others through your words and actions as you share the gospel and live it out daily!

WEEKLY

PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



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1 John 3:18