

A Christ follower's life of sacrifice is the logical consequence of Christ's sacrificial death. The Christ who sacrificed Himself for us is now continuing the sacrifice in our everyday life. Christ's sacrificial death becomes the call for the Christian's sacrificial life.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (ESV) - ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

A Christ follower's sacrifice is necessary to fill out Christ's sacrifice. This makes the truth of the Gospel come to life. It is living the mission of Jesus Christ daily.

It is finding someone, somewhere, or something worth giving your life to.

I found Someone = _____

I found Somewhere = _____

I found Something = _____

WORTH Giving My Life Too.



**PINELLAS COMMUNITY CHURCH
MESSAGE NOTES**

February 21, 2010

Speaker: Mike Conaway

Maturity Pastor

Series: Goin' All The Way

Title: "All In"

Sacrifice: to surrender something for the sake of something else or to surrender yourself for the sake of someone else.

The Bible teaches us that we come to understand and experience love in the context of Sacrifice.

1 John 3:16-17 (MSG) - *This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear.*

Love is not a feeling or an intention. Love is a choice that binds us to a distinctive course of action, a lifestyle of sacrifice.

3:16: To understand real love, we need only to look at Jesus for the example. We can know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for all people. Christ's example shows everyone that real love involves self-sacrifice which must result in self-sacrificial actions.

Christ followers should not be so used to hearing of Christ's sacrifice that we are no longer devastated by it.

Our life mission and willing self sacrifice must be _____ centered not _____ centered.



connect



grow



serve



share



honor



Digging In

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Personal Reflection:

1. While the opportunity to sacrifice your life for another may not arise the opportunity to offer material possessions that have the power to sustain life is available. What are some ways that you lay down your life for your family, friends, church, community, city and world?
2. The true test of love is not found in saying we love but in our willingness to help and love with our actions and reveal the truth. How can you live sacrificially so that your co-workers, school mates, and neighbors can see and experience Christ's love?
3. Is it possible for us to truly love God and not demonstrate love to our family, friends, neighbors, and church? Why? Why Not?
4. The scripture says that if we do not live a life of self sacrifice we make God's love disappear. Why is that? How does that make you feel to know you have the power to make God's love appear or disappear?

Going Deeper

Books

Living Sacrifice: Willing to be Whittled as an Arrow

By: Dr. Helen Roseveare Christian Focus / 2007 / Paperback

The Selfless Way of Christ: Downward Mobility and the Spiritual Life

By: Henri Nouwen Orbis Books / 2007 / Hardcover

God's Gravity: The Upside-Down Life of Selfless Faith

By: Craig Borlase Relevant Books / 2006 / Paperback

Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God

By: Francis Chan David C. Cook / 2008 / Paperback

Web Sites & Articles

<http://www.scionofzion.com/sacrificial.htm>

<http://www.lifeway.com/article/?id=162088>

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/audiences/alpha/data/aud19881026en.html

<http://www.gty.org/Resources/Sermons/1622>

Small Groups

Homeless Outreach (Serve Team)

Meeting Day: Wednesday

Meeting Place: Sophie Sampson Center for Hope

Time of day: Evening **Meeting Frequency:** Monthly

Meeting Address: 401 15th Street North, St. Petersburg

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