

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

1 JOHN 3:16-18

¹⁶ 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

What are some pick-up lines that you know?

Have you heard lines such as: “On a scale of 1-10, you're the one for me!” You may have heard (or even used) such lines, but fun as they are, pick-up lines can give us a distorted understanding of what love really looks like

Distortions of love and truth such as selfishness are very rampant. Even the Apostle John encountered these with the rise of gnostics during his time. The gnostics were popularizing dualism saying that Jesus' body was not real and that his spirit only came during his baptism and left before the crucifixion. In the passage, the Apostle John calls out this wrong teaching and instead teaches us the truth about Jesus and his love. Previously, we learned that love can be defined as “an unconditional commitment towards an imperfect person, seeking their highest good which often requires sacrifice, resulting in God's glory.” One hindrance to loving unconditionally is selfishness, a preoccupation about what would please and benefit us. There are many distortions of love even today, and many of us are not living completely because we are not loving completely. Something may feel missing in our lives because there is something missing in our love. The Love Series has been a blessing as it taught and reminded us of what God says about love. In our season finale, we will be talking about how true love goes the extra mile. Are you ready to go extra? We conclude our Love Series by talking about **True Love goes EXTRA:**

TRUE LOVE IS EXTRA COSTLY

1 John 3:16 tells us that Jesus gave up His life for us. This laying down of life was with full knowledge, it was done purposefully. The Greek word used here is the word “tithemi” which means to give up” or “to put down” just like a warrior in battle puts down his weapon. True love will always cost us something, and as our definition also says true love “often requires sacrifice”. This is the kind of sacrificial love demonstrated by mothers who give up their time to take care of their children. As well as the same love that husbands show their wives when they give time and effort to take care of them as Christ loved the church as in **Ephesians 5:25**. It is the same love demonstrated by our frontliners who serve by taking care of patients especially in this time of pandemic, putting even their lives on the line. It is the same love demonstrated by those who gave up their very lives to share the love of Christ. This is what we show when we give up a person or relationship when 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 in order to provide for 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”** In the area of material things, are we able to show the people around us that we are loving? A story is told of a girl who ministered in one of the poorest regions of the world. In that region due to its poor condition, a chicken could sustain the whole tribe for a week! As she was about to conclude her mission trip, the chief came up to her and gave her a chicken. Knowing the implication of the act, she politely declined accepting the gift, to which the chief replied that no one is too poor to give, nor too rich to receive. This story reminds us that when we give, we do not look at our standard of living, but instead 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. As we learned from the second episode of our series, it is not just about 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 it must also be felt, and for it to be felt, it often entails sacrifice. We sacrificially love according to God’s Word and His truth. This sacrificial love is what Christ demonstrated 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 in how true love goes extra. He loved us extra costly – at the cost of His life. His love is extra giving because He gave us eternal life. And lastly, He exemplified how true love is extra expressive 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 is costly and it 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!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What do you need to give up to show God or others that you love them?

2. Setting It Right

How is your heart condition towards giving?

3. Living It Out

What areas of my life do I need less talk and do more to show love?

WORKS

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 to love others even if it would cost you something. 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