

THE LOVE OF JESUS (Ephesians 3:17-19)

I. Jesus had a selfless love.

- A. As we say, there wasn't a selfish bone in the body of Jesus.
- B. Whatever Jesus did, it was for others.
- C. I could not imagine the throngs of people that surrounded Jesus.
 - 1. I think of the constant near-harassment that people who are considered stars receive.
 - 2. The other day in a mall in Memphis there was a crowd of people outside a store holding up their cameras and phones to take a picture of someone.
 - 3. We found out the someone was Vivica A. Fox, an actress who was shopping.
 - 4. I don't think I would handle that well.
 - 5. However, Jesus handled it extremely well and desired it because it allowed Him to teach more people.
 - 6. He gave His time and energy to the lost.
- D. No doubt Jesus could have used a break and sometimes, early in the morning, would go be by Himself.
 - 1. However, most of the time, He was surrounded by people.
 - 2. They wanted to touch Him or have Him touch them.
 - 3. They wanted to be nearby in order to hear Him.
- E. In all of this, you never see Jesus act selfishly.
- F. Jesus was constantly giving of Himself.
- G. His ultimate act of love, His death on the cross, shows how selfless Jesus really was.
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:21.
 - 2. Hebrews 13:12.
- H. Jesus did not suffer because of His sins, but because of ours and He had to be selfless in order to do it.

II. Jesus had a servile love.

- A. Because Jesus was selfless He could serve others.
- B. Philippians 2:7.
 - 1. Jesus came to earth in order to serve others.
 - 2. There was nothing fancy or flashy about the life of Jesus because it was a life of servitude.
- C. Jesus said of Himself that He came to do the will of the Father (John 5:30).
 - 1. One who does the will of another is a servant of that one.
 - 2. Jesus served God the Father by carrying out His will.
- D. It has always been amazing to me that the night before His death, Jesus would serve others in the most menial way possible, washing their feet (John 13:3-15).
 - 1. The custom was for the host to provide water and a towel for guests to wash their feet or to provide a servant to wash the feet of

- the guests.
- 2. Jesus performed the work of a servant to teach a lesson.
- 3. He then would tell us that happiness is found in serving others (John 13:17).
- 4. This is a lesson how world will not take to heart.
- 5. Happiness is found in servitude to others.
- E. If I am selfish and looking out only for myself I can never be a servant to others.
- F. If I am full of pride and feel that I am above others I can never be a servant to others.
 - 1. Some think that there are acts of kindness or love that are beneath them.
 - 2. There is nothing worse than washing manure off of someone's feet and our Lord did just that.
- G. Truly, Jesus had a servile love for mankind.

III. **Jesus had a sacrificial love.**

- A. Normally, we would run straight to the cross when thinking about the sacrificial nature of the love of Jesus.
- B. I want us to go back to before Jesus set foot on earth and think about what Jesus had to sacrifice.
 - 1. Have you ever given consideration to Philippians 2:7?
 - 2. There we are told in the first phrase that Jesus made Himself of no reputation.
 - 3. The American Standard says Jesus emptied Himself.
 - 4. The idea is that Jesus sacrificed His equality with God in order to come and be a man on earth.
 - a. Think of the glory and recognition Jesus would have had as the second person of the Godhead.
 - b. Jesus sacrificed that in order to carry out the will of the Father
 - c. Instead of being recognized for who and what He was, Jesus was improperly recognized by man as something far less than deity.
 - 5. Jesus willingly sacrificed heaven in order to come to earth.
 - 6. Surely we cannot begin to comprehend the amount of love it took for Jesus to do this.
- C. Many have heard of the account of Pat Tillman, the former NFL player who gave up his football career to serve in the military and ended up dying in Afghanistan.
 - 1. We admire Tillman because of what he left behind.
 - 2. We admire him for his service to his country and dying on behalf of it.
- D. His sacrifice does not begin to touch the hem of the garment when it comes to the sacrifice Jesus made.
- E. When thinking of the cross and that sacrifice by Jesus, Paul sums up for us what Jesus did in Romans 5:6-8.

1. Jesus died for the ungodly, in other words, those who were not like Him nor loved Him in return.
 2. That is true sacrifice to die for someone who does not love you or even like you.
- F. Paul used Jesus as an example of how to walk, or live your life, in love (Ephesians 5:2).
- G. The word for the love Jesus commanded us to have is from the root word "agape."
1. This love seeks the highest good of another at the cost of oneself.
 2. At heart, it is a sacrificial love.
 3. It requires sacrifice for the one doing the loving.
 4. This is the love we are to have for all men (Matthew 22:39).
- H. Love is something to be shown, not just stated (1 John 3:18).
- I. Jesus showed us His love for us by sacrificing Himself (1 John 3:16).