

No Greater
Love



One Love

By Pastor Sabu Samuel

Our culture has a lot to say about love. Everywhere we look, we can see displays of love in different shapes and sizes. We all know love is a good thing and the world needs more of it. While people tell us to love more, there is only One who has ever perfectly demonstrated what real love looks like, He is our Jesus Christ, our Savior.

To understand the full context of the love of God, we must understand who we are compared to Him. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Since Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, we were all born separated from our Creator because of sin. We were unlovable, enemies of God, and slaves to our sinful nature.

Considering our state of being, God never abandoned us. John 3:16 says, “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life”. God loved us so much, He sent his own son to die for our sins. Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a perfect life, and died a sinner’s death on the cross in our place. He rose again, defeating death, and paid the payment for sin through his death. John 15:13 tells us, “No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends”. The perfect model of love is when Jesus gave himself for us on the cross. There is no greater love than this.

How does this agape love apply to our lives? It’s only through faith. You might be in a situation where you have to earn someone’s love by doing certain things for them. But God’s love is unconditional love. It’s not about your performance or what you did, agape love is unconditional. Ephesians 2:8-9 reads, “For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.” We’re saved through faith in Christ alone.

Jesus gave His all on the cross for our behalf so that we never would have to live a single moment in hopelessness. There is always hope in Jesus. So remember, there is no greater love than Jesus.

The Sacrifice of One Man, Salvation for All

By Gregory Abraham

When researching sacrifice, I came across stories of parents losing their lives for their children, a man going to jail willingly for the crimes of his friend, and a brother standing in the way of danger to protect his siblings. As Christians, we are extremely aware of the greatest sacrifice in history but I hope to revisit why and how his sacrifice was so necessary.

People of every major religion have realized that they have sinned but each believes that through the works of man, we can be atoned. In Islam, good deeds and faith in Allah are needed to go to heaven. In biblical times, Jewish people would yearly bring animals to be sacrificed for their sins at the altar of the temple. Christians understand that no man can bring himself into heaven but agree a sacrifice is needed. That sacrifice was made by Jesus's death on the cross as Paul wrote in Romans, "for the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Another question we often hear is how one man's sacrifice makes up for the sins of all of humanity. Nabeel Qureshi explains it best in his book, "Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus," through the example of a store owner whose son has stolen from the owner's cash register. The son spends the money but later realizes how he has sinned against his father by stealing from him. He returns to his father begging for forgiveness. The son can no longer pay his father back, but it is the father's right to take money from his own savings and use it to wipe away the debt. In this story, we are the son who has wronged his father (God) and has strayed. But, if we repent for our sins, Jesus Christ, the son of God, (being fully God and fully man) death on the cross has wiped away the balance that had been stolen of not just me and you but the entirety of humanity.

It is never too late for us to return to our father and his love for us never runs out. Dying on the cross, Jesus was mocked by the criminal next to him saying if Jesus was the Messiah he could save both himself and the criminals on the other crosses. The criminal on the other side realized who Jesus was and "protested, 'Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong.'" (Luke 23:40-41). The second criminal begged Jesus to remember him in heaven and Jesus replied "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Every single one of us will follow the path of one of these criminals, either accepting or turning away from God. God out of love for his children has already paid our debt but it is up to us to accept the salvation that by his sacrifice has been freely given.

Weekly Meetings

Date	Time	Location
Monday	10:30 AM	@Church
Tuesday	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	@ Zoom
Friday	10:00 AM - 11:00AM	@ Zoom
Saturday	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	@ Church

Mark Your Calendar

Event	Date	Location
PYPA	June 22	@ Church
URM	June 29	@ Union Rescue Mission

Pray For Nations

Country	Capital	Population est.
Iceland	Reykjavík	403,000
India	New Delhi	1,384,380,000
Indonesia	Jakarta	282,154,000
Iran	Tehrān	87,529,000
Iraq	Baghdad	44,528,000