

Culture Making | Sacrificial Love  
1 John 3:1-3; 11-20

True Love is Sacrificial

1 John 3:18

Little children, we must not love with word or speech, but with truth and action.

“Fear engenders fear. It never gives birth to love.”

—Henri Nouwen

## TO LOVE SACRIFICIALLY, WE NEED A SHIFT IN OUR IDENTITY (v.1-3)

1 John 3:1-2

Look at how great a love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children. And we are! Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed.

“Our minds evolved not just as survival machines, but as courtship machines.”

—Geoffrey Miller

Agape love implies a willingness to put another's wishes and needs before your own.

—C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

Agape love is a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained.

—C.S. Lewis, *God on the Dock*

## WHY WE NEED AND IDENTITY SHIFT (v.11-15)

1 John 3:11-12

For this is the message you have heard from the beginning....We should love one another. Unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

John 15:12

This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you.

"Two stories have haunted us and followed us from our beginning...we carry them along with us like invisible tails—the story of original sin and the story of Cain and Abel."

—East of Eden, Steinbeck

Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was approved as a righteous man, because God approved his gifts, and even though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith.



1 John 3:13-15

Do not be surprised, brothers, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

If we don't live out of our new identity, we will not love sacrificially

“I think this is the best-known story in the world because it is everybody’s story. I think it is the symbol story of the human soul. The Greatest terror a child can have is that he is not loved, and rejection is the hell he fears. I think everyone in the world to a large or small extent has felt rejection. And with rejections comes anger, and with anger some kind of crime in revenge for the rejection, and with the crime guilt—and there is the story of mankind.”

—East of Eden, Steinbeck

## WHERE WE FIND POWER FOR AN IDENTITY SHIFT

1 John 3:16

This is how we have come to know love: He laid down His life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers.

“The Cross is not simply a lovely example of sacrificial love. Throwing your life away needlessly is not admirable — it is wrong. Jesus’ death was only a good example if it was more than an example, if it was something absolutely necessary to rescue us.”

—The Reason for God, Tim Keller

Hebrews 12:24

[We come] to Jesus (mediator of a new covenant), and to the sprinkled blood, which says better things than the blood of Abel.

## John 15:13-17

No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you slaves anymore, because a slave doesn't know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. 17 This is what I command you: Love one another.

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE PRACTICALLY



1 John 3:17-18

If anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need but closes his eyes to his need—how can God's love reside in him? 18 Little children, we must not love with word or speech, but with truth and action.

“Not everyone can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love.”

—Mother Theresa

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

—C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*