

A Celebration of Love  
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*“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”  
John 15:13*

The Book of John in the New Testament, also called the Gospel (Good News) of John, is known for its talk about love. Arguably, the most famous Bible passage in the world comes from this book and talks about love. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16. John writes in another of his books that God Himself is best defined by these simple words, “God is Love.” 1 John 4:8

The Book of John was written by Jesus’ disciple of the same name for the purpose of sharing Jesus’ life and ministry with non-Jews—outsiders. In other words, John leans heavily into the Love of God to encourage people far from God that He cares about them. John believes it is this radical, and often times controversial, word that would transform hearts and minds from unbelief to belief.

I love Easter because it reminds us what love truly is. Love isn’t giving something to someone we love. Love isn’t doing something kind to someone we like. Love isn’t finding mutual benefit in one another. Love is sacrificing what is good for me for the sake of someone else experiencing what is good for them. Jesus didn’t die because it was mutually beneficial. Jesus died because we needed Him to. He died on a cross and experienced public shame because, without it, we are all damned to Hell.

God is Love. He laid down His life for us, while we still hated Him. Even knowing we would continue regularly accusing God of not doing His job. He knew that is how we would respond and still chose to die. God didn’t want us to die an eternal death. God did not want our physical death to be the end so He did what He is. God is love and love is laying down your life for another; for a friend (John 15:13) and for your enemies (Matthew 5:44).

I firmly believe that what our hurting world needs now isn’t an explanation of who Jesus is, but a real-life example. I believe the world needs to be shown by the church, the body of Christ on earth, that we *are* love. This doesn’t happen at an organizational level (usually). Rather, it happens (mostly) on an individual level. It happens with how we treat every person we come in contact with. It doesn’t happen when we give someone everything they want, but it does happen when we sacrifice what we want for the sake of what God wants for another person.

This Easter season I pray that you know God’s love again; His reckless, indescribable, unconditional, practically-unbelievable love. And, knowing that love encourages and inspires you to see the world, especially those far from God, with the same heart our God sees them. That we might be the children of God who live out our identity and be His reckless, indescribable, unconditional, practically-unbelievable love to the world.