

No act of love can transpire without a sacrifice...

By Rev. J.G. Callender

Luke 6:27 – 28 NIV

27. "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

28. Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

True repentance is the first sacrifice that the Lord accepts because His covenant of love is established with us through the cross. Since we will be judged by our motives the purpose for our sacrifice should have eternal weight. Because Jesus voluntarily became sacrifice for our sin, He has been made Lord over all. Without first accepting His sacrifice of love at the cross what could our motive be for any sacrifice. For glory? Can we administer tough love without it being for our own convenience? Will not our sacrifices quickly fade if they are centered in self? Will our sacrifices [acts of love] carry the objects of our love into eternal glory?

The Holy Spirit being given to us through our commitment to Christ becomes the guide and motivator for the sacrifices we are bringing God glory and keeping our motives true.

Now concerning the sacrifices we make for mankind-their reply is: more more, I want I want, but God's reply is: "I Love You". For this reason we make the sacrifices of our love through God's command the motivating factor for all we do. Though we sometimes fail, we may be the only glimpse of God's love that is seen by family, friends or neighbors. We definitely need to be examples for our children. Therefore we must not stop striving to perfect God's love in us to assure that our motives are pure.

Sacrifices and offerings made with impure motives, hidden agendas from guilt cannot establish a Godly love. Also the arrogant or self-centered person does not and cannot practice unconditional love. When this type makes sacrifice is further out glory, agenda, or gain. Control is their motive!

The goodness of God comes through the sacrifice of a godly person and will establish a love that brings others to repentance. This kind of love has eternal ramifications. Our commitment to God's perfect law of Love can bring many into the joy of His eternal glory. The Word says this is a reasonable sacrifice to make as children of God.

I know this attitude puts a big hole in our pride but it is meant to. Only a humble and sincere heart has the courage to ward off the attacks of this world by protecting the truth about Love [God] which so many are ready to pervert.

The greatest joy we will ever experience in this life comes when we truly find out who Christ is and see His sacrifice manifest in us. The only joy that will overshadow this is when we join Him in eternity.

1 Corinthians 2:9 [NIV]

9. However, as it is written: “No I have seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.”

The grateful hearts that are snatched from death and hell will give testimony to our love. All this comes through our commitment [sacrifice] we have made in Christ. This is the moment in which the name of Jesus will again be glorified!