



Christian Life Fellowship
Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



HIS PASSION - OUR PASSION

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Introduction:

Passion is defined as the sufferings of Christ between the night of the Last Supper and his death; suffering: the state or capacity of being acted on by external agents or forces, intense, driving or overmastering feeling or conviction, a strong liking, desire for or devotion to some activity, object or concept; an object of desire or deep interest.

1 John 4:9-14 God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us... And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

This morning we are going to look at the passion of Christ and the motivation that it should be for anyone who follows Him. The events that took place in Christ's life during this week began with His entry into Jerusalem, followed by other events that led Jesus to Calvary. The source of Christ's passion was His intense love for mankind. It is no secret that Jesus demonstrated God's love for us while we were yet sinners. In spite of the waywardness of humanity, in spite of our disobedience in breaking God's laws, in spite of falling far short of God's glory, Jesus still loved us to the point of death. Jesus' passionate love caused Him to leave the beauty, glory and purity of heaven to live among us in human form and willingly face the consequences of sin so there could be a way for us to be redeemed and to have peace with God.

I. THIS IS REAL LOVE.

Real love shows itself in the face of fear. Real love shows itself in the face of sin. Real love shows itself by sacrifice and going beyond the ways that one would respond naturally. Real love isn't a response to the nice things demonstrated toward it. Real love sacrifices. Real love chooses the effort behind demonstration over the choice of waiting to see what someone else does first. Real love acts, not reacts. It doesn't show itself because someone has done something nice for us. Real love initiates and directs. It takes the higher road. It is blind and deaf to how it is treated.

God's purpose in demonstrating such depth of love is to make known the opportunity for eternal life. Without Christ's coming, there would have been no opportunity to find redemption, forgiveness and peace with God.

The power of love is deepened because of the purpose it expresses. Jesus clearly understood the reason for His coming. He was one with God the Father. He spoke only what God directed Him to speak. He went only where God directed Him to go. Living as a human being, Jesus relied and depended totally on God to empower Him and direct His life. God's passion for humanity was seen through Christ's works and words. Jesus was not just a good man who succumbed to the schemes of men; He predicted his death, burial and resurrection. He was aware of God's plan and willingly surrendered to God's plan. Jesus was not a powerless victim. He embraced death to accomplish our redemption and rose from death in power and majesty!

Sacrificial love has transforming power. Genuine love is volitional rather than emotional. The person who truly loves does so because of a decision to love. This person has made a commitment to be loving whether or not the loving feeling is present. If it is, so much the better; but if it isn't, the commitment to love, the will to love, still stands and is still exercised. True love is not a feeling by which we are overwhelmed. It is a committed, thoughtful decision. (Dr. M. Scott Peck)

When I see how Paul defines love in [I COR 13:4-8](#), it is a perfect picture of Christ:

- **Love is patient and kind.**
- **Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude.**
- **Love does not demand its own way.**
- **Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged.**
- **Love is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.**
- **Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.**
- **Love will last forever.**

II. HIS PASSION – OUR PASSION

Christ's life is a pattern for our life. When we identify our sin and accept Christ's forgiveness, He comes to live within us and we have everything that we need to live a passionate life like Christ did. The reason why there are not more passionate followers is because we don't completely follow the pattern of Christ's life. Jesus only went where God told Him to go. He only spoke what God told Him to say. He only did what God instructed Him to do. We act on our own and then wonder why we don't see the results that Jesus did in His ministry.

When we have made Christ the leader of our life, our goal is to follow Him. When you want to make more than one of something, you make a template, a pattern and if you fashion whatever it is after that pattern, you will get the same thing over and over again. So it is with our lives and Jesus. He is our pattern; our lives are to be shaped and patterned after Him. Not that we have to die on the cross for our sin, but that the depth of His love within us would *enable* us to lay down our life. Giving Christ control of our life is a choice, a decision and if we are one with Him, His passions should become our passions.

We can demonstrate God's love to those who do not yet follow Christ with the same intensity and determination as Jesus did. Our text tells us that because Christ loved us to such depth, we also should love each other. As we demonstrate such love to others, the full expression of God's love is seen.

In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul writes about the life of Christ within him. He basically says, "Christ's passion is mine. I no longer live for myself. I am no longer moved by the passions and desires for myself. It is now the passions of Christ living in me that dictate my responses to those around me." **Galatians 2:20 I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

God's love demonstrates itself in the face of fear, in the face of sin and His love is still willing to sacrifice itself for others. Foundational to everything we do as Christians, is to forge a relationship of love with Christ. With that foundation our relationship with others will be more Christ-like. Because of Christ's life, we will be able to serve those who don't know Christ and bring them into relationship with Him. Without having a focus on loving God and Christ above everything, our passion for others around us will be diminished. **Deuteronomy 6:5** instructs us to love the Lord our God with all our soul and with all our mind and all our strength.

When I attended college in Tulsa, Oklahoma, their way of speaking influenced me and soon my NY eastern accent was reduced to zilch. I began to say, "y'all" and ended up after graduation with a

CONCLUSION:

During this holy week while we think deeply about Christ's passion for us and our passion for Him and others, I want to challenge you this morning, to choose one phrase from **I COR 13: 4-7** and ask God right now to help you live your life and love that way this week.

southern drawl. It was because we cannot be around people without them influencing us, even to the way they say words.

People rub off on each other, in good and bad ways. When we spend time with Christ, through prayer and in His word and serving, His passions, His goals, His likes and dislikes are bound to influence us. If they are not doing that, I would suggest that we are not spending enough time with Him. Dependence on Christ, knowing and seeking His will, begins by setting our thoughts on God. The more we experience God, the more our thoughts and mind will be on Him.

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to 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...The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers...of love is Hell." (C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1960, p.169.)