

Experience the Pure Outrageous Love

Have you ever hurt deeply for a friend? If so, then maybe you can begin to understand the pure, outrageous love Jesus Christ has for every single human being.

When God made this world He made it good. It was created for you and me to enjoy. We were meant to love each other and to love God. It wasn't long before our ancestors chose to disobey God and to be more concerned with themselves than others or even God. In fact, we have all done that.

Then Jesus came to this earth in the form of a human, and He modeled for us what God wanted us to be like in the first place. Unfortunately humans rejected Jesus too. We have found out that there is nothing we can do to rectify this. Even living a good life now does not pay the price for our past mistakes. Our past sins against God needed to be forgiven, and since they were sins against God, only God could forgive them.

In John 10:15 Jesus said, "I lay down my life for the sheep." And in verse 18 Jesus said, "I lay it down of my own accord." Jesus died a physically horrifying death, and at the same time he paid the price for your sins and mine. Why? Because of the pure, outrageous love He has for you and me.

I call it an outrageous love because it was against any human's normal way of doing things. It was out of the ordinary. How else can you describe that type of love if not outrageous? It defies human explanation.

John reminds us that God willfully gave up his son out of love for the world that he had created. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Isaiah gives us a picture of the cost of this pure love in chapter 53, verses 7-9. "He was oppressed, and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off out from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth."

When you think about it, you might say it's both beautiful and troubling. Beautiful because you realize just how much God loves you, and troubling because what Jesus suffered on our behalf is far greater than what we had come to believe. It is a love that comes from pure motives.

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