

***A New Year...A Steadfast Hope!
Because God Loves – I Can Live Sacrificially
1 John 3:16-18 (page 845)***

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Love o r i g i n a t e s with God

- God i s love (1 John 4:7-8)
- God e x p r e s s e s love
(Deut 7:7-8; Jer 31:3; John 3:16; Rom 5:6-8; 1 John 3:1)

Jesus gives me the d e f i n i t i o n of love (1 John 3:16a)

- It was the g r e a t e s t s a c r i f i c e possible
(John 1:29; 15:13; Heb 10:10)
- It was for my g r e a t e s t g o o d
(John 3:16; 1 Cor 13:3; 1 Tim 1:16; 1 Pet 1:18-21)
- It was for the g r e a t e s t p u r p o s e (John 12:28; Heb 12:2)

Christian love = discovering personal *joy* in actively s e r v i n g another to give them *joy*, even at the s a c r i f i c i a l cost of my own p l e a s u r e, for God's g l o r y.

I am to f o l l o w Jesus' *example* by:

- Living s a c r i f i c i a l l y (1 John 3:16b)
 - It will c o s t me (Luke 10:29-37)
- Living u n s e l f i s h l y (1 John 3:17)
 - It will require a k i n g d o m attitude in me (Matt 6:19-34)
 - It will require a w a r e n e s s from me (John 4:34-37)
- Living o b e d i e n t l y (1 John 3:18)
 - It will require a c t i o n from me (James 2:14-26)

New Year Check-up....

Living sacrificially... what do I have the most difficulty letting go of: my *time*, my *resources/possessions*, my *pleasures*?
What can I do to start to change that one area?

Living unselfishly... do I treasure my material wealth at the *expense* of my heavenly calling? What is one step I can take to *re-establish* my life priorities?

Living obediently... what is my biggest struggle in this area?
Why is that so?