

John 19:17-30

“O Perfect Love”

March 25, 2016

In our world, we make love into something romantic. We make love into an emotional feeling good about you expression. Yet in God’s Word we hear **“while you were still sinners Christ died for you.”** God’s kind of love has very little to do with emotion. Rather God’s kind of love is a commitment to self-sacrifice. Because we believe in our God and the Savior Jesus Christ we commit ourselves to love God above all things and to love our neighbor as our self. Our role model is the Lord Jesus Christ who gave His life on the Cross at Calvary while we were still sinners.

In this world, people allow their emotions to run their lives. Emotions are good or God would not have created them in us. However, our God wants us to maintain balance in our lives. We are to maintain balance between our body, our minds, our emotions and our soul. The foundation of our balance is God’s Word with the Lord Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. Sometimes it requires great effort to maintain our balance because our world seeks to throw us into an unbalanced state. Our world sometimes seeks for the mind to govern our body rather than our faith. Our world sometimes seeks for the emotions to govern our body rather than our

faith. When we are unbalanced, we are unable to walk the path that God wants us to take in life and we end up stumbling along unable to give glory to God.

In our text we see the perfect balance God wants us to maintain. Jesus said to His mother, **“Dear woman, here is your son.”** Then He said to John, the Gospel writer said, **“Here is your mother.”** Jesus knows that He is about to die. Jesus knows that shortly after His resurrection from the dead that He will go to heaven and sit at the right hand of His Father. Until Mary dies and joins Him, He will not be able to physically care for her. Jesus could respond by divorcing Himself from her and ignoring her because He could not deal with the emotions. Jesus could take her life and see that she would be with Him in paradise like the thief on the Cross. Then she could not live life that was left to her. Then she could not tell Luke her part of the birth of Jesus. Instead Jesus entrusted Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to John the Gospel writer. This is sacrificial love which is not based upon emotions.

How do we achieve this kind of love which is not based upon the world and its ways. In Hebrews we are told, **“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”** (Hebrews 12:1-2) We keep our eyes focus upon Jesus. Think of John 14:1 where we hear;

**“Don’t let your hearts be troubled, trust in God, trust also in Me.”** Jesus said.

In other words, we maintain our balance in life by trusting in our God.

Of course we know that those are easy words to say and that they are hard to live by. Where we are imperfect in our struggle to maintain balance in life, Jesus with His life on the Cross at Calvary makes perfect our imperfection. Not only is He our role model even on the Cross, but He shows us God’s undeserved grace and mercy when we stray from the balanced life. Likewise He disciplines us to lead us back to the right path as we were reminded last night in the Epistle lesson.

Yes our Savior is our role model. He taught us God’s ways. He lived God’s ways even when placed under the persecution and death on the Cross at Calvary. The world can push us to the breaking point and we can feel a failure in life. We are never a failure when God calls us to be His and works with us to keep the faith. We may not be able to handle the world’s expectations, but Christ handled them for us on the Cross at Calvary. Therefore we humble ourselves and follow Him.

Amen