



# Life Together

From our elder, Justin Taylor....

## What Is Love?

Here is Paul Tripp's definition of love: "Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not require reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving" ([What Did You Expect](#) <sup>[1]</sup>? <sup>[1]</sup> p. 188).

In the following he unpacks the definition (pp. 188-189):

### Love is *willing*.

Jesus said, "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord" (John 10:18). The decisions, words, and actions of love always grow in the soil of a willing heart. You cannot force a person to love. If you are forcing someone to love, by the very nature of the act you are demonstrating that this person doesn't in fact love.

### Love is *willing self-sacrifice*.

There is no such thing as love without sacrifice.

Love calls you beyond the borders of your own wants, needs, and feelings.

Love calls you to be willing to invest time, energy, money, resources, personal ability, and gifts for the good of another.

Love calls you to lay down your life in ways that are concrete and specific.

Love calls you to serve, to wait, to give, to suffer, to forgive, and to do all these things again and again.

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## Sunday Evening Service

We will be having our next evening service on Sunday, February 27 at 5:00 p.m. Please join us for a great time of singing, worship, testimonies, and prayer.

We will also be welcoming new members that evening and this is a great time to get to know them.

## Membership Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend a membership meeting on Sunday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m. following the evening service. The purpose of the meeting will be:

- a) To ratify the proposed Constitution, including the Statement of Faith.
- b) To approve the 2011 Annual Budget.
- c) To rejoice and give thanks for what God has done for our good and for his glory since the formation of NCBC.

**To bring glory to God  
through Spirit-transformed lives  
by the beauty and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ**

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Elder Justin Taylor continued.....

Love calls you to act when you would really like to wait, and to wait when you would really like to act.

Love calls you to stop when you really want to continue, and it calls you to continue when you feel like stopping.

Love again and again calls you away from your instincts and your comfort.

Love always requires personal sacrifice.

Love calls you to give up your life.

**Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another.**

Love always has the good of another in view.

Love is motivated by the interests and needs of others.

Love is excited at the prospect of alleviating burdens and meeting needs.

Love feels poor when the loved one is poor.

Love suffers when the loved one suffers.

Love wants the best for the loved one and works to deliver it.

**Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not require reciprocation.**

The Bible says that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners. If he had waited until we were able to reciprocate, there would be no hope for us.

Love isn't a "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" bargain.

Love isn't about placing people in our debt and waiting for them to pay off their debts.

Love isn't a negotiation for mutual good.

Real love does not demand reciprocation, because real love isn't motivated by the return on the

investment. No, real love is motivated by the good that will result in the life of the person being loved.

**Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not require reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving.**

Christ was willing to go to the cross and carry our sin precisely because there was nothing that we could ever do to earn, achieve, or deserve the love of God. If you are interested only in loving people who are deserving, the reality is that you are not motivated by love for them but by love for yourself. Love does its best work when the other person is undeserving. It is in these moments that love is most needed. It is in these moments that love is protective and preventative. It stays the course while refusing to quit or to get down and get dirty and give way to things that are anything but love.

There is never a day in your marriage when you aren't called to be willing.

There is never a day in your marriage when some personal sacrifice is not needed.

There is never a day when you are free from the need to consider the good of your husband or wife.

There is never a day when you aren't called to do what is not reciprocated and to offer what has not been deserved.

There is never a day when your marriage can coast along without being infused by this kind of love.

Article printed from Justin Taylor: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor>

URL to article: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/2011/02/14/what-is-love-2/>

URLs in this post:

[1] *What Did You Expect:* <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1433511762/bettwowor-20>

**1 John 4:7**, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

**Pray for a breakthrough of holy love-**

- Love for God
- Love for the local church
- Love for one another
- Love for the lost

**Day of Prayer & Fasting: February 23**

**Missionary Visits**

We are blessed here at NCBC to have missionaries visiting and living at the Mission House. Use this as an opportunity to get acquainted with them.

**Jan-Jun:** Robinette

**Feb-Mar:** Havens

**Jun-July:** Trott

**Aug-Sept:** Phiri

**Sept:** Robinette



**Youth Winter Camp**

Check in: At NCBC at 5:00 p.m. on Friday (balance of registration fee due).

Please pray that God would use this event to have an impact on students with the gospel.