

TRUMPET CALL

WELCOME TO THE UPTOWN CHURCH!

EXODUS 19:16-19

On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check your bulletin for more information.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

A pastoral prayer of invocation, adoration, thanksgiving, and illumination.

Psalm 67:1-2, 105:4

PASSING THE PEACE

Unity & Reconciliation

*Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11-12;
1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14; Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Corporate prayer of our covenantal commitment with our Heavenly Father through the Son of God, which encourages the confession of sin together.

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Our Father,
who is in heaven,
holy is Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.



Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



For Yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever.

Amen.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Beatitudes & Woes

Luke 6:17-36

ELDER

Blessed are you who are poor,

CONGREGATION

For yours is the kingdom of God.



ELDER

Blessed are you who hunger now,

CONGREGATION

For you shall be filled.



ELDER

Blessed are you who weep now,

CONGREGATION

For you shall laugh.



ELDER

Blessed are you when people hate you,
And when they exclude you,
And revile you, and spurn your name as
evil,
For the Son of Man's sake.



CONGREGATION

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy!

For behold, your reward is great in
heaven,

For so their fathers did to the prophets.



ELDER

But woe to you who are rich,

CONGREGATION

For you have received your consolation.



ELDER

Woe to you who are full now,

CONGREGATION

For you shall hunger.



ELDER

Woe to you who laugh now,

CONGREGATION

For you shall mourn and weep.



ELDER

Woe to you, when all people speak well of you,

CONGREGATION

For so did their fathers to the false prophets.



ELDER

But I say to you who hear,
Love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
pray for those who abuse you.



ELDER

If you love those who love you,
what benefit is that to you?

CONGREGATION

For even sinners love those who love
them.



ELDER

And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you?

CONGREGATION

For even sinners do the same.



ELDER

And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to

you?

CONGREGATION

Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.



ELDER

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer

Romans 12:9-13

PSALM 144:1-2

Blessed be the Lord, my rock,
who trains my hands for war,
and my fingers for battle;
He is my steadfast love and my fortress,
my stronghold and my deliverer,
my shield and He in whom I take refuge,
who subdues peoples under me.



EPHESIANS 6:10-13

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.



BLESSING & DISMISSAL OF THE CHILDREN

Call children to the altar for prayer and blessing.

Matthew 18:1-14, 19:13-14

PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

DECLARATION OF THE LAW

The Greatest Commandment with a supplementary passage.

*Mark 12:29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28;
John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-8,21; Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8
Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18*

‘Hear, O Israel!

The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

And you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your
strength.’



This is the first and great commandment.
And the second is like it:
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
On these two commandments hang all
the Law and the Prophets.



For the commandments,
“You shall not commit adultery,
You shall not murder,
You shall not steal,
You shall not covet,”



and any other commandment,
are summed up in this word:

“You shall love your neighbor as
yourself.”

Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:9-10





LOST & DISORDERED LOVE

Understanding the Greatest Commandment, Part 10



GREATEST COMMANDMENT

1. Hear, O Israel:
The Kingdom
2. The Lord our God, the Lord is one!
The Trinity (Exclusively)
3. And you shall love the Lord your God
Love Fulfills Law
4. with all your heart, soul, mind +
strength.
Whole Self + Everything
5. You shall love your neighbour as
yourself.





GREATEST COMMANDMENT: THE LAW OF LOVE, LIBERTY & LIFE

Distinct Laws in the Old Testament

- Shema — **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
- Priestly Law — **Leviticus 19:18**

Christ Harmonizes these Laws in the NT

- Greatest Commandment + Royal Law — **Mark 12.29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28; John 13:34-35; Rom.13:9-10; Gal.5:14; James 2:8; 1 John 4:7-8,21**



YOU SHALL LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- **Love Rightly Ordered:**

“God is love.... We love because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:8,19; Rom.5:8)

- **Love is an act of the will** — it is spiritual first and foremost. Love is not an uncontrollable/spontaneous emotional reaction.

- Holy Spirit (Love) >> human nature: will (love) >> intentions, beliefs, thoughts, desires, reasoning, etc. — heart, mind, soul (Ezekiel 36:26-27)



YOU SHALL LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- Agape love is a **willful, faithful, impartial, sacrificial “giving to” another** that seeks and wills the good of the other *over* personal emotion, reciprocity, or welfare, expecting nothing in return—it just does.
- **Agape love is a freewill offering—a true sacrifice.**
- Agape is love without thinking, without feeling, without seeing, without picking and choosing—**love is being (or, in our case, becoming)**.
- Love is indispensable to the image of the invisible God.



YOU SHALL LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- Since the Triune God is love, and God loves in perfect union with Himself, and you were created in His image to be like His Son, then you were created by love, from love, for love — to be His image on earth as it is in heaven.
- **Your whole purpose in life is ordered to love God and love neighbour like God loves Himself. You love God through neighbour.**
- **BUT! We are evil**—broken images of God. We do not love as we ought. Therefore, God commands us to love orderly: *God is. Therefore, you shall.*



YOU SHALL LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- **Love Rightly Ordered:**
“God is love.... We love because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:8,19; Rom.5:8)
- **Therefore, Love Wrongly Ordered... is Evil.** Lost. Aimless. Vapour.
- What is evil love?
- How do you love evilly?
- In other words, how do you not love God and neighbour?
How do you know if you are not? (say, if you're self-deceived)



WHAT IS EVIL LOVE?

Natural love is broken. It is not becoming like Christ, it is at enmity with God (**Romans 8:7-9, Colossians 1:21, Ephesians 2:1-3**), which means love is:

- Filtered through a selfish desire to fill a void in the will: Want.
- Seeks the 'good' of the other to satisfy personal emotions, reciprocity, or welfare, expecting something in return (**Luke 6:32-35**)
- Consumed by other's opinions, thoughts, feelings, perception — picks and chooses who or what to love (i.e., Societal Order: Rom-coms, Reality TV)
- Non-sacrificial tribal temporal pragmatic and partial



WHAT IS EVIL LOVE?

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- **Love without God is disordered and misdirected.**
- Our priority structure of love is out of whack because our earthly sense of love is at odds with God and against eternity, polluted by selfish wants, cravings, and desires.



WHAT IS EVIL LOVE?

- **Matthew 23:23** — “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected **the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness**. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.
- **Luke 11:42-43** — “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and **neglect justice and the love of God**. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.



WHAT IS EVIL LOVE?

Natural love is broken. It is not becoming like Christ, it is at enmity with God (**Romans 8:7-9, Colossians 1:21, Ephesians 2:1-3**), which means love is:

- Love is not what you are *not* doing... i.e., 10 Commandments

- **Mark 10:17-20, Matthew 19:16-22** — Rich Young Ruler (Paraphrased):

Young man said, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” Jesus said to him, “You lack one thing....”

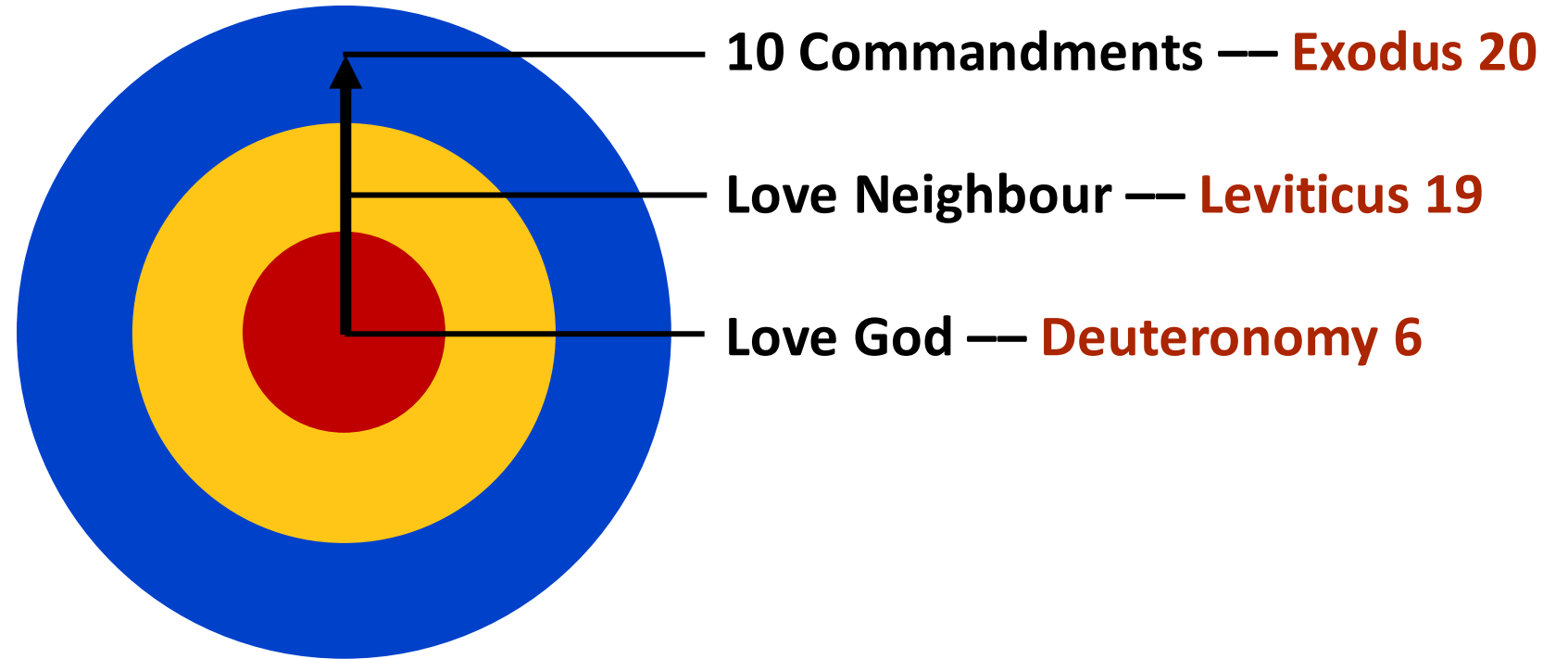


EXODUS 20 – 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. **No other gods:** Worship only the one true God.
2. **No idols:** Do not make or worship images/idols.
3. **No misusing God's name:** Do not carry God's name falsely.
4. **Keep the Sabbath:** Set aside a day for rest and worship.
5. **Honor parents:** Respect your father and mother.
6. **No murder:** Do not kill people.
7. **No adultery:** Be faithful to your spouse.
8. **No stealing:** Do not take what belongs to others.
9. **No lying:** Do not give false testimony (lie).
10. **No coveting:** Do not desire, envy, or crave what belongs to your neighbor.



GREATEST COMMANDMENTS



YOU SHALL LOVE

LAW



YOU SHALL LOVE

LAW



LAW



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU

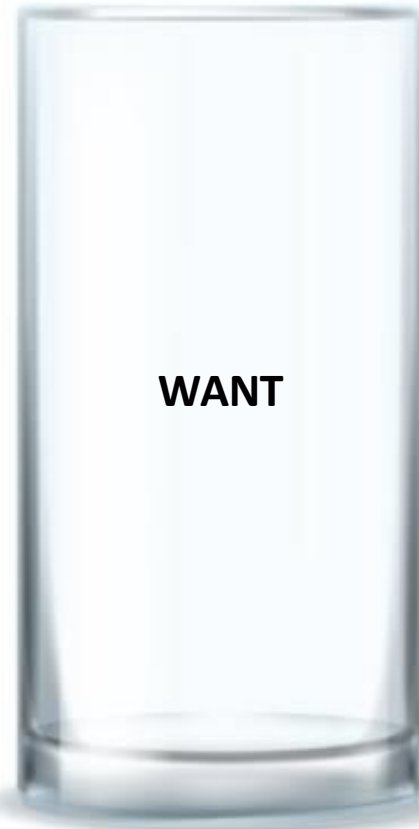


YOU



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU



WANT

YOU



LOVE



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU



WANT

YOU



GOD



YOU SHALL LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- The Law of Love reorders and redirects our natural love, which is tainted by sin and death, into its intended created purpose: divine love — sincere and genuine self-sacrificial love. **The love of Christ!**
- Your worship of God is hindered if you do not keep the 10 Commandments, Royal Law, and the Greatest Commandment (**1 Peter 3:7**).
- Every single person has broken these commandments to some extent.
Love repents and reconciles.
- What was the whole point of the sacrificial worship system in the OT?





LOVE IS SACRIFICE.

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

Romans 12:1



SACRIFICE IS WORSHIP.

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

Romans 12:1

YOU SHALL LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- James says true religion (worship) is helping the most vulnerable:
- **James 1:26-27** — “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”
- In Greek, *threskeia*, “reverent religious [ceremonial] worship”
- Loving neighbour as yourself is *part* of worshipping God.
Pure religion is relationship.



YOU SHALL LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- Love directs your worship.
- What happens when you don't love God first and foremost?
- **Disordered love leads to false worship** (*apotheosis*: emperor worship, ancestor worship, celebrity worship, child worship, et cetera).
- Disordered love prioritizes a checklist or selfish wants or works-based conditions (earning points/wages),



EVIL AGAPE LOVE

- **John 3:19-20** — And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved [agape] the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.
- **John 12:42-43** — Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.



EVIL AGAPE LOVE

- **1 John 2:15-16** — Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.
- **2 Peter 2:15** — Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing...



EVIL AGAPE LOVE

- **Matthew 24:10-14** — And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.



DISORDERED LOVE

- **Matthew 10:34-39** — “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”



DISORDERED LOVE

- **Matthew 5:43-48** — “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you [includes family members], so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.... For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?”
- **1 Timothy 5:8** — “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
- God is not trying to take away your natural love for your family and replace it with Him. He IS that Love if you’re in Christ!
Acts 17:28 — “In Him [God] we live and move and have our being.”



DISORDERED LOVE

- What is Christ saying? You must love Love (God) first/foremost and become like Christ to love rightly — this is a call to a proper priority structure of orderly love, which then affects and leads to worship.
- **What/whom you love first and foremost will become the object of your worship because love steers and directs worship.**
- **Why?**





LOVE GLORIFIES.

“And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.
There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Matthew 22:39-40; Mark 12:31

ORDO AMORIS, “ORDERED LOVE”

- There is a logical order by which love is applied necessarily in the Christian faith, by virtue of God’s natural order of intimacy and relations as finite creatures.
- God is not against natural love — it is that our natural love is broken, lost, and aimless without God, who is love. God wants to reconcile us to Love and elevate our natural love into the love it ought to have been from the beginning—through His Son.



ORDO AMORIS, “ORDERED LOVE”

- By loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, the natural outpouring of that is that you will fully love your spouse, fully love your children, fully love your brothers and sisters in Christ as well as your neighbour/enemy, in the way they ought to be loved, **according to the kind of love God has allotted for them in your life** — you fully love them:
- **Brotherly affection** — *philia* — 1 Peter 1:22, 3:8; Hebrews 13:1
- **Familial bond** — *storge* — Romans 12:9-10
- **Sensual intimacy** — *eros* — Songs of Songs 1:2-4

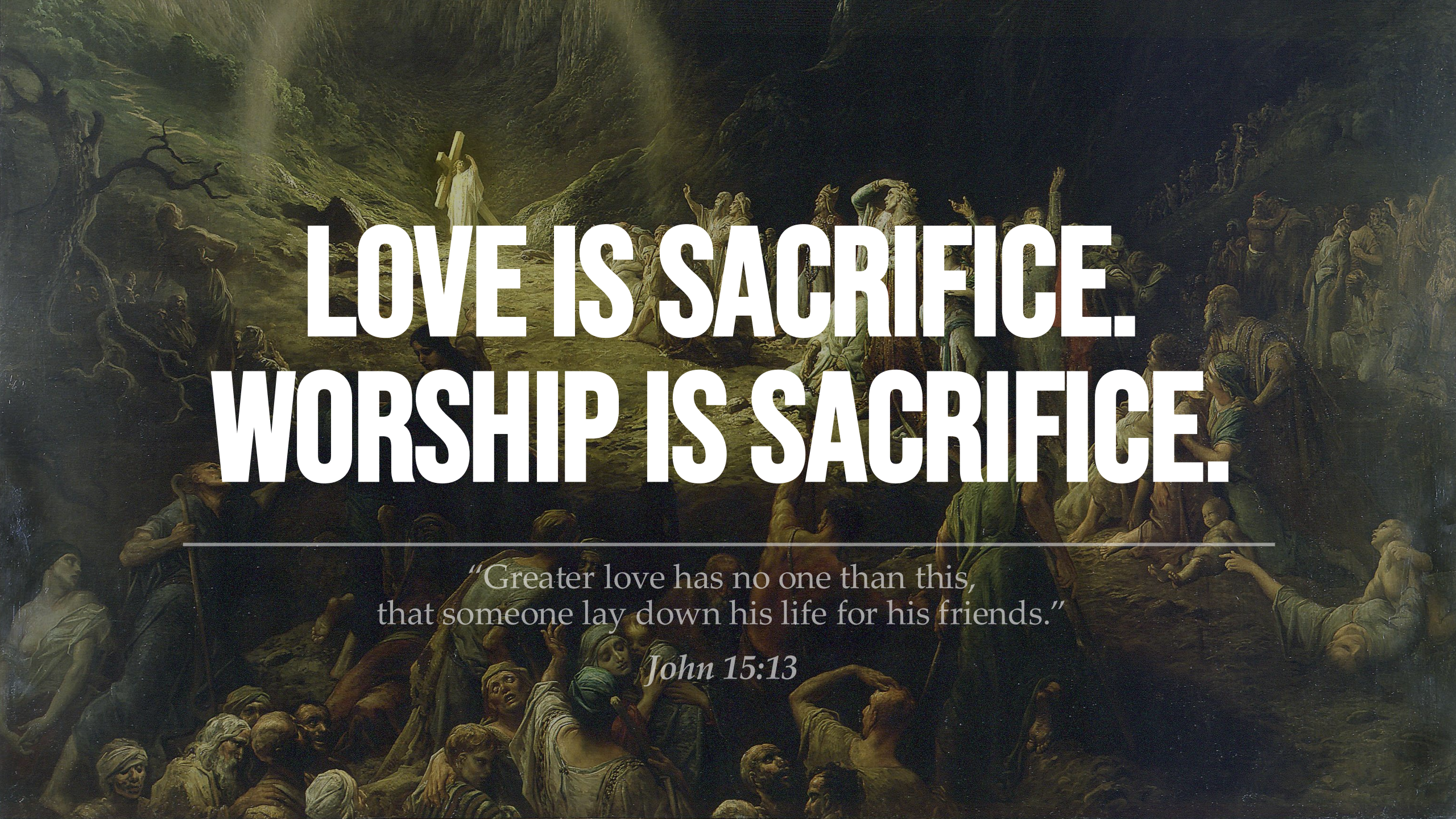


ORDO AMORIS, “ORDERED LOVE”

Spheres of Accountable Action — order/priority of your ministry:

1. **God** — Father, Son, Holy Spirit
2. **Self/Spouse: Children** — local house — **Ephesians 5:25-33, 1 Tim. 5:8**
3. **Parents/Siblings/Cousins** — greater house — **1 Timothy 5:8,16**
4. **Fellow Believers** — local church, then greater church — **John 15:13**
5. **Friendly Unbelievers** — friends, co-workers, etc.
6. **The World** — Acquaintances, strangers, enemies, etc.

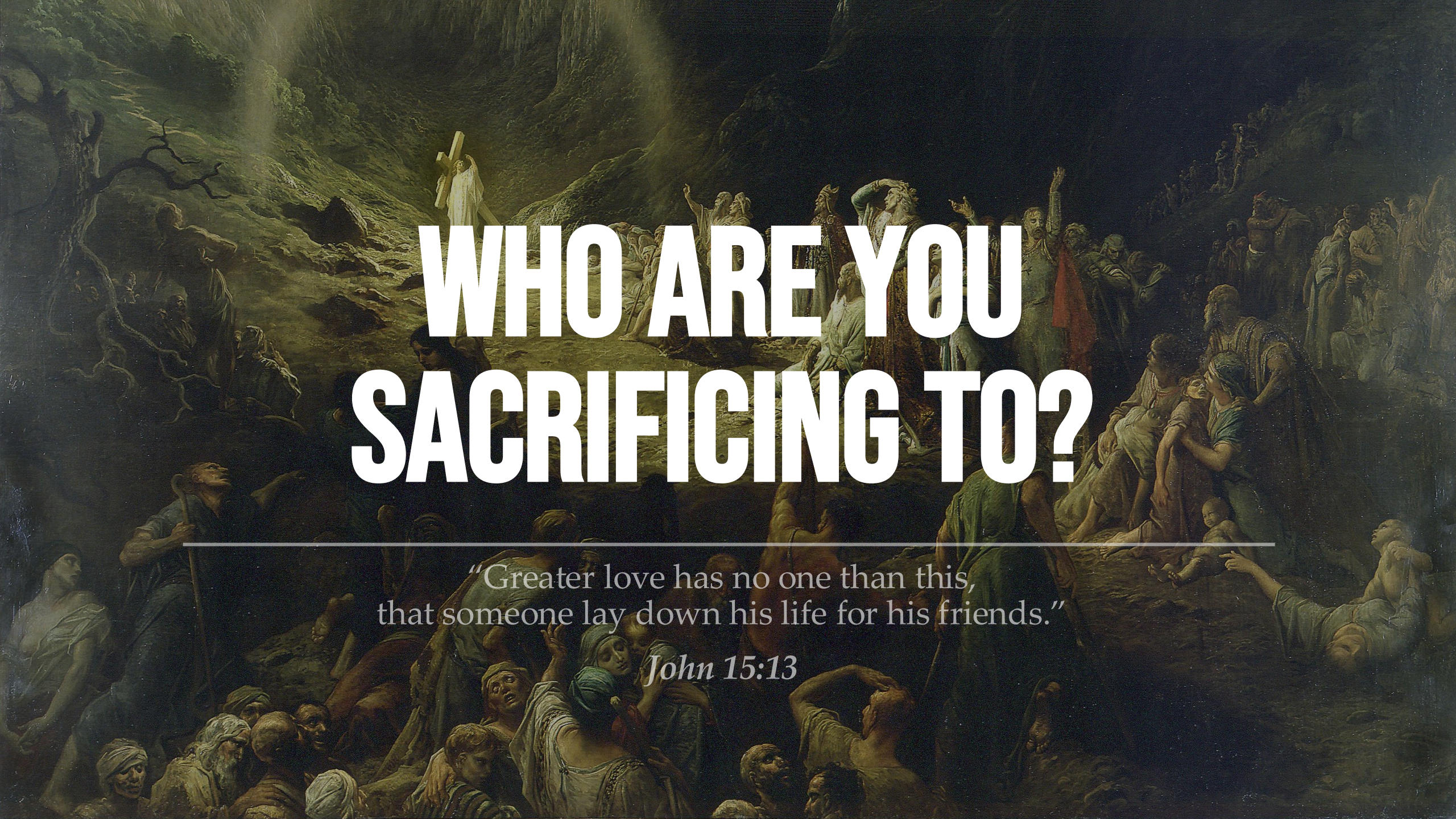




LOVE IS SACRIFICE. WORSHIP IS SACRIFICE.

“Greater love has no one than this,
that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

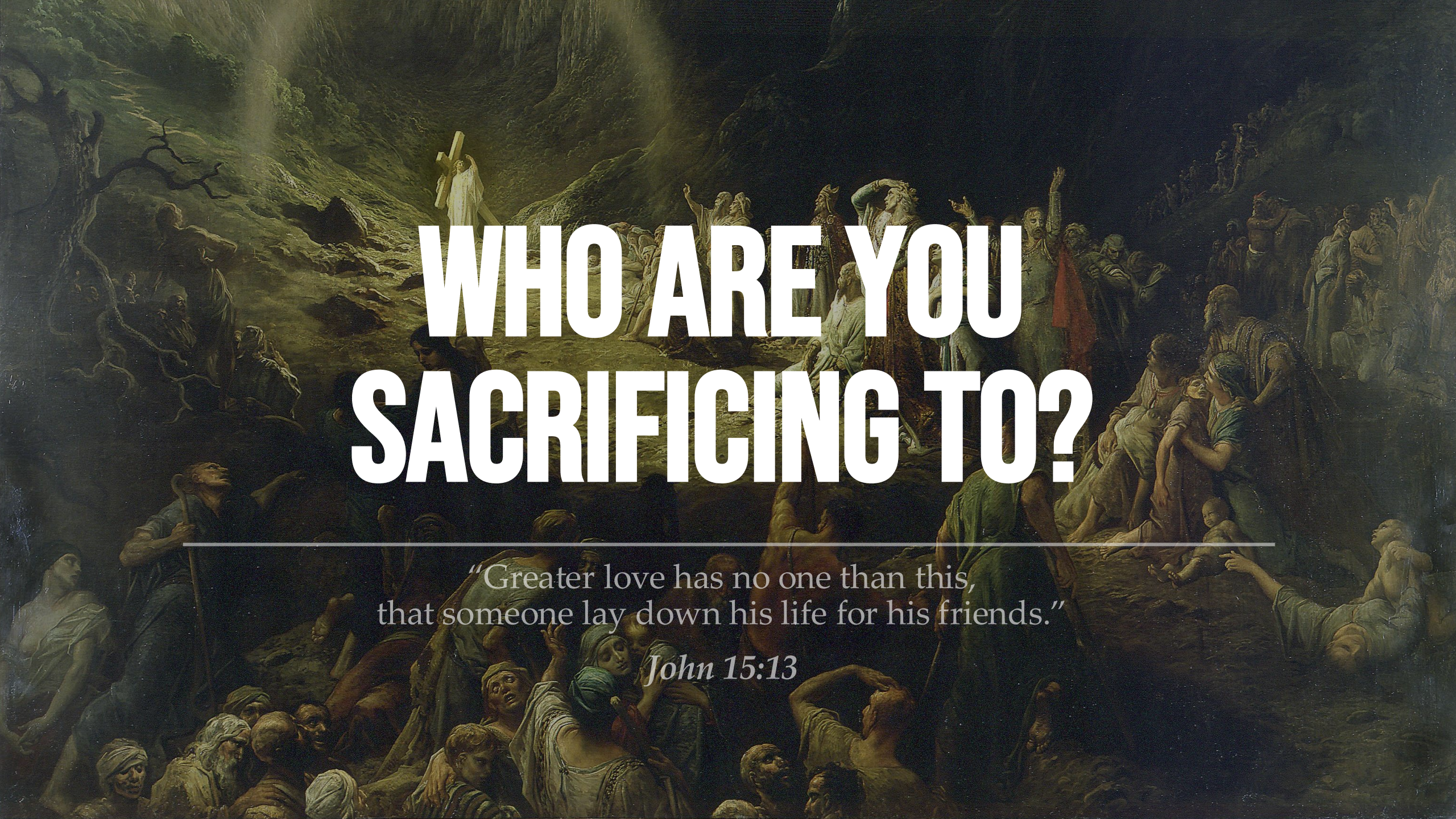
John 15:13



WHO ARE YOU SACRIFICING TO?

“Greater love has no one than this,
that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:13



WHO ARE YOU SACRIFICING TO?

“Greater love has no one than this,
that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:13

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

Pastoral Prayer of Application of God's Word.

CALL THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH

Prayer in the aisles — altar call, confession of sin, anointing of the sick,
pastoral intercession, along with prayer, praise, and worship.

James 5:13-16; Psalm 103:2-5

JAMES 5:13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

BENEDICTION

Priestly Blessing

BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God the Father,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all this week.
Go in the peace that surpasses all understanding.
Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14





NOTES...

- Our natural love for our children extends and elevates into the love we have for the children of God — this includes your children, the most vulnerable (i.e., orphans, widows) — **John 15:13**
- Can you see others as children? he calls the disciples “little children” (**Matthew 18-19**) — natural love is childlike, divine love is Christlike.
- God is restoring your broken natural love into divine sacrificial love. God is using your natural love to show you how to love others. Agape love is not at the expense of natural love, but the elevation of it.
- You sacrifice for your children... your family... etc.



