

God's Extravagant Love

Ephesians 5:1-2, 4b, 25 (The Message)

Wake Up from Your Sleep

*¹⁻² Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behaviour from their parents. Mostly **what God does is love you**. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. **Observe how Christ loved us**. His love was not cautious but **extravagant**. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.*

*²⁵ ... a love marked **by giving**, not getting.*

*⁴ **Thanksgiving is our dialect.***

God's Extravagant Love

- Extravagant love – unusual word for God's love, a huge concept
- Extravagant love – just to give and not get
- Think of a person who loves you a lot – spouse, parent, sibling, child, friend

➤ **Jesus loves much more! His love is extravagant!**

Meaning of extravagant:

- *A person who spends more money than they can afford*
- *Going beyond a normal limit*
- *Excessive, exorbitant, extreme, precious, invaluable, lavish – keeps on giving, loves without wanting anything back*

It can have negative overtones like spending more than we can afford.

But for God, it is in a **positive** way. He owns everything, so He can afford to keep on giving.

Extravagant love is related to **lavish**.

1 John 1:3 (NIV)

*See what great love the Father has **lavished** on us, that we should be called children of God*

Gives extravagantly, over and over again and never stops giving or loving – giving in abundance

Think back in history about many **martyred** for their faith. Even **today**, in many countries people are martyred or persecuted for believing in Jesus. They loved Jesus so much. His extravagant love was greater than the danger they faced, wouldn't forsake this love.

- **Jesus' life shows His extravagant love.**
 - He called children to Himself, laid hands and blessed them
 - He had compassion on the crowd and fed them
 - He touched and healed the bleeding woman
 - Jairus' daughter – raised her back to life
 - He saw the widow's dead son and had compassion and raised him up
 - He cried over Jerusalem and He grieved for the trouble He knew was coming, because people had turned away from God, like sheep without a shepherd, yet He still loved them extravagantly
- **On the cross, Jesus gave His mother into John's care. He was even thinking of others and their future while on the cross.**
- **The cross is the ultimate example of God's extravagant love for us, to die in our place.**

Ephesians 3:17-19 (NIV)

*¹⁷ I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how **wide and long and high and deep** is the **love of Christ**, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the **fullness of God**.*

➤ **How does God show this extravagant love?**

- Greatest love – to lay down life for friends
- Jesus did this
- The cross shows His love

John 3:16

For God SO loved the world that He GAVE his only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

We gain so much from His sacrificial death and resurrection.

Forgiveness, cleansing, healing, right to be children of God and part of His family

Ephesians 5

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*²⁵ ... a love marked **by giving**, not getting.*

⁴ Thanksgiving is our dialect.

➤ **“Love like that.”**

- In Jesus’ day, story of Martha and Mary
- Martha’s complaints
- Mary sat at Jesus’ feet - listening, learning, adoring and thankful
- She “loved like that.”
- Still need to go about our daily affairs, but in our hearts, we sit at Jesus’ feet – in worship, adoration, thanksgiving, **enjoying Jesus’ extravagant love** for us – It’s a **lifestyle**.

Have I perfected it? Certainly not! But want to press into it more and more.

Jeremiah 1:3 (NKJV)

*The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have **loved you with an everlasting love**; Therefore, with **lovingkindness I have drawn you**.*

- Have you been drawn?
- To this extravagant God, who loves extravagantly?

New Year’s wish:

- Bask in God's extravagant love. Know daily that God's love surrounds us, is in us – always,
- unconditionally.

Jude 1-2 (Passion Translation)

*“... I’m writing to the chosen ones who are **wrapped in** the love of Father God—kept and guarded for Jesus the Messiah. May God’s mercy, peace and [extravagant] love **cascade** over you!”*