

The Sacrificial Heart

Hebrews 10:19-25

Introduction

The willing surrender of something or someone of great personal value for the sake of a transcendent ideal, a willingness known as sacrifice, is a concept familiar to religious thinking, especially in Christianity. The preeminent example of sacrifice is seen in the life and death of Jesus. Why did Jesus sacrifice himself? Why do we have to make sacrifices?

I. The Sacrifice of Christ

- A. He gave his life voluntarily.
- B. He gave himself in love even for those who hated him.
- C. He adjusted himself obediently to God's purpose.

II. The Sacrifice of the Christian

- A. Willingness to follow Christ's example removes the basis for accusation by Satan.
- B. With no reason to accuse, Satan loses his grip on our lives, which brings us closer to God.
- C. Being closer to God individually helps to bring the entire world that much closer to full salvation. Every blessing has an effect on everybody, no matter how insignificant it may seem to be.

III. Forming the Temple of God

- A. Unconditional love clears out the "junkyard spaces" of our spirits, giving God room and reason to dwell within us as we are formed into the temple of God.
- B. Unconditional love permits us to be grafted into Christ the true Vine, so we bear good fruit.
- C. Unconditional love in the midst of a fallen world is very painful sometimes, but the end result makes it all worthwhile, because it encourages others and multiplies good instead of evil.

Conclusion

The key to subjugating and defeating Satan is a sacrificial heart flooded with unconditional love. This kind of love is what the world needs now, beginning with YOU. How about it?