**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

April 3, 2022

Brian Hummel, *Executive Pastor*

**Greater Love**

**Love’s Sacrifice**

John 15:1-17



What are you willing to sacrifice?

We are willing to sacrifice if the return is more important than the sacrifice.

Sacrifice: To forfeit something for something else considered to have a greater value.

Give what you cannot **keep** to **gain** what you cannot lose.

John 15 one of the last lessons that Jesus would communicate to His disciples follows a familiar pattern: our relationship with God and then our relationship with others.

““Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.””

Matthew 22:35-40

Jesus and His disciples left the upper room as Jesus continued to teach them. They may have seen the intricate vine stonework decorating the temple or a small vineyard.

*““I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”*

John 15:1-6

Our love for God has to be **greater** than our love for anything else.

*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

John 14:15

*Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!*

Luke 11:28

God’s love for us is greater than what we **sacrificed**.

Effectual **Prayer**

*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

John 15:7

Plentiful **Fruit**

*By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

John 15:8

Complete **Joy**

*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

John 15:11

When we give up a life we cannot keep, a life of our way, our desires, or strength, our understanding; we gain a life that we cannot lose, a life close to God, a life that produces fruit, and a life filled with joy, now and forevermore.

Jesus continues moving from addressing our relationship with God to our relationship with others.

*If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.”*

John 15:10

Our great **love** for God compels us to love one **another**.

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

John 15:12

Our great love for God compels us to **lay** down our life for others.

*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I commanded you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

John 15:15

Our great love for God compels us to love **all**.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

John 3:16

Give up what you cannot **keep** to **gain** what you cannot lose.