

# Sacrificial Love:

## Selflessly giving to another



Sacrificial love *should* be a visible part of every Christian's life. If we call ourselves followers of Jesus, selfless giving of ourselves should be evident every day. Jesus defined love as selfless giving of ourselves - if there is a love for Jesus in our heart; it should show in the way we live, the way we treat others - especially our spouse. Yet, sadly, we do not often see sacrificial love in Christian marriages. Carmen and I have heard all the excuses; from 'work is too demanding,' to 'it's just the way I am,' to 'it's the family I grew up in,' to 'but he (or she) doesn't give to me.' I am sure glad Jesus didn't offer excuses of why He couldn't selflessly come to earth, live life as an example through derision and opposition for 33 years and then die a horrible death on the cross for me - and for you.

Interestingly, my wife fell and fractured her hip four weeks ago and I have had to die to self and give to help her every day since. Honestly, I'm tired. In the midst of this, we moved from our home of 30 years to another, smaller house. And, I have my own physical problems and things to do, but I choose to stop every time she needs something; in fact, just a few minutes ago, she had to go to the bathroom and needed toilet paper - I had walk away from my 'work' and go find toilet paper so she can go to the bathroom. This is not what I would say is *fun*, but this *is* what I signed up for when I said "I do" almost 43 years ago. I can do this for the rest of my life, if necessary, because Christ will take care of me as I do what I must to do to selflessly demonstrate love for my wife.

I think of the wonderful quote by Christian comedian and author, Kenn Kington: "If you are looking for someone to meet your needs, make you happy, and make your life worthwhile, you will be greatly disappointed, quickly discouraged, and basically unhappy the rest of your life. *But, if you will just be the person God has made you to be, and find out how you can give your life to someone else by meeting their needs and making them happy, you will discover fulfillment, joy, and peace in ways you can't even imagine.*" That, my friends is what sacrificial love is all about. When we walk in obedience and love as Jesus has demonstrated for us, there is a wonderful peace that comes from giving of ourselves. Taking care of my wife while she has a fractured hip may not be convenient, but it *is* rewarding and it is what Jesus has asked me to do.

So, don't give excuses; just do it! Be the person God has made *you* to be and find out how *you* can give your life to *your* spouse by meeting their needs and making them happy. Trust God, lean in to Him and He will give you the strength to keep on - even when you are tired...

**Helpful Resources:** *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com)

**Articles to check out:**

*What Is Sacrificial Love & 15 Ways to Practice It* by Rachael Pace - [www.marriage.com](http://www.marriage.com)  
*Sacrificial, Agape Love in Marriage* by Matthew J. White - [www.focusonthefamily.com](http://www.focusonthefamily.com)