

# theBeloved



## ...singled out 4 Christ

**Love: the Art of Laying Down Your Life**

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The same John that recorded the words of our Lord Jesus in the Gospel of John 15:13 when our Messiah said, “Greater love has no one than this, than to **lay down one's life** for his friends,” also expounded on this same concept later in His first epistle. No doubt Jesus, in this passage was primarily referring to Himself and His ultimate sacrifice for us all on the cross when He Himself paid the price for our sins. But I believe that Jesus was also calling His disciples to adopt and apply the same kind of love as He, the Lord of heaven and earth, the Beloved of all creation, shows to all of mankind. In Matthew 20:25-28, our Beloved taught,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, **let him be your servant**. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- **just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to **give His life** a ransom for many.” (NKJV)

The apostle John, the self-proclaimed *disciple whom Jesus loved*, received these “love principles” from our beloved Messiah, and passed them on to the churches of his day, and subsequently, they were passed on to us. John, also called *John the beloved* by early Bible scholars, wrote the following exhortation in his first general epistle, “By this we know love, because **He laid down His life for us**. And we also ought to **lay down our lives for the brethren**” (I John 3:16). Wow! Is that what we’re called to do as Christians, as lovers of the Most High? Yes. You and I no longer live for you or me, but I for you and you for me. That is what our Lord Jesus both taught us and demonstrated for us when He walked this planet, died and rose again, and still teaches us today, if we’ll listen. And we must listen. This kind of sacrificial, selfless love is what sets us apart from the world, from the devil’s children.

“And by this they may know that you are My disciples, that you love one another, even as I have loved you.”

So, we see that Jesus Christ is our Beloved. We belong to Him, and thus, we belong to one another.

Therefore, the way we behave toward one another is directly translated into how we treat our Beloved. So then if Christ is our Beloved, then we are called to be beloved of one another. Yes, even in so-called “love relationships.” The bottom line is that if you are looking out for the best interests of someone else, including and especially spiritually speaking, then you will be less likely to hurt others and to compromise their and your own values. This principle is simple, OTHERS before ME, yet the test is in the application. **“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ”** (Galatians 6:2, NKJV).