

# Love's Supreme Image

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March 5

Read: 1 John 4:7-21

Jesse Pals

Now how these words find their way onto greeting cards I don't know. These words are some of the most bloodstained, disturbing and insufferable words we will ever read. I think these words are the pivot, the summary of everything we can see in the life of Jesus.

In our culture, the supreme image of love is a man and a woman, a white dress, a candlelight dinner with rose pedals scattered. But for us the supreme image of love is a naked, bloody and bruised man anchored to a cross with nails as thick as my thumb.

For us the supreme image of love is the decision by God to extend himself into humankind, become human and dwell among us. And that he should limit himself to this human form in order to be humiliated, tortured, and broken to suffer and die for our sins. That, for us, is the real image of love. This commitment of God to extend himself into the lives of those he would love, this decision to embrace all the work, all the courage, the humility of all that. That, for us, defines what it is to love.

The word of God tells us what love really is. The word of God reminds us that from the very beginning we were the people of this earth who would really know what love was and would demonstrate it to those around us.

***Prayer: Father God, as we reflect on your sacrifice. Give us the courage to imitate the bold and selfless love that your son Jesus lived by. Help us to live in you God and to rely on the love you have for us. We love because you first loved us. Thank you Lord. AMEN***

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