

CHRIST GAVE HIMSELF FOR THE CHURCH

“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us,
and hath given Himself for us
an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.”
(Ephesians 5:2)

INTRODUCTION

One of the manifestations of love is giving. God is love and each member of the Godhead (Father; Son and Holy Spirit) has manifested His love toward the saints through giving. Before the foundation of the world, it was determined and decreed by the Godhead that God, the Son (Jesus Christ) would give Himself as an offering and a sacrifice for sin. (*1 Peter 1:18 – 20*)

- **Genesis 22:8.** And Abraham said, My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering; so they went both of them together.
- **Isaiah 9:6.** For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
- **Isaiah 49:6.** And He said, It is a light thing that thou shouldst be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel; I will also give thee for a light to the nations, that thou mayest be My salvation unto the end of the earth.
- **John 3:16.** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

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• BEFORE THE INCARNATION

Having been decreed as Servant of the LORD, for the redemption of the souls of men, Christ was made an offering and sacrifice for sin. Christ gave Himself to the Church by submitting to the Father's will.

- **Hebrews 10:5 – 7.** Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

• THE INCARNATION

Christ gave Himself for the Church when He was made like us, and became a man.

- **Philippians 2:7, 8.** But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And, being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- **Hebrews 2:14 – 18.** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

ON THE CROSS

Christ gave Himself totally for us – His Will; His Body; His Blood; His Life

- **Psalm 22:14 – 18.** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.
- **Isaiah 53:10 – 12.** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.
- **Luke 22:19, 20.** And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.
- **John 10:11.** I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.
- **John 10:15 – 18.** As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

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