

GIVE YOURSELF AWAY

Part 1: Just Like Jesus
Pastor Grant Fishbook
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Who or what gets the best of you?

A Biblical Strategy for Giving Yourself Away (*Ephesians 5:1-2*)

¹Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children...

Imitators = *mimetes*; one who is like another; mimic; mime

Application: We are to imitate the character and
life of Jesus

^{2a}...and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us...

What does it mean to live a life of love?

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. – *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

Self-Test – Rate yourself on a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high)

- I am patient _____
- I am kind _____
- I do not envy _____
- I do not boast _____
- I am not proud _____
- I am not rude _____
- I am not self-centered _____
- I am not easily angered _____
- I forgive and let it go _____
- I do not delight in evil _____
- I rejoice in the truth _____
- I always protect _____
- I always trust _____
- I always hope _____
- I always persevere _____
- I never fail _____

(Continues on back)

^{2b}...and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The pure expression of God's love for us:

This is love; not that we loved God but that He loved us and send His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. – *1 John 4:10*

A pure expression of our love for God:

But if the servant declares, 'I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,' then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life. – *Exodus 21:5-6*

Dear Father,

At the beginning of this new decade I give myself wholly to you.

I choose to be your servant for life.

In response to your love for me, I declare my love for you.

I give you all of my fears and failures – I humbly ask for your forgiveness.

I ask that you gather up the broken, scattered pieces of my life.

I ask for your wholeness and your hope.

Amen.

Next Steps (*Details in today's program and What's Happening*)

- **Men and Women:** Commit to *12 Steps: A Spiritual Journey* to get a clear picture of "self" as God sees you, and gather back the pieces of your life through God's power and for his glory.
- **Women:** Attend *Breaking Free*, a study that will help you remove barriers to follow God completely.
- **For Young Adults:** Attend the Young Adult Discipleship Course to discover what it means to imitate Jesus' life and character.

**Small Group
Discussion
Questions**



- 1) What is your favorite part of a wedding?
- 2) In what ways are you just like your father or mother? In what ways are you still imitating them? Are those ways positive or negative?
- 3) What was your lowest score on the self-test? Why is that one area so challenging for you?
- 4) Share one tangible way that you are planning to live a life of love this week. Be specific and share so that your group can hold you accountable.
- 5) How can your small group be more loving this year? Is there someone you can touch or something you can do as a group that will be an expression of your love for God?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?