

## ***In On It To Death, Part Two***

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,  
it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

**REVIEW: Loving God so much that we really love His project is a matter of life and death.**

**I. Becoming a Christian, that is, regeneration, is a sort of death**

**Luke 9:23**

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

As depicted in baptism (This Wednesday, November 2 is the next Baptism Bible Study. 7:00 p.m.)

**TODAY:**

**II. Becoming a mature Christian, that is sanctification, is a sort of death**

- Sanctification is the process by which we are more and more set apart for the purposes of God
- That means becoming more and more set apart FROM everything else we would otherwise be living for
- So then, over and over again, we are called upon to put to death the thing we love, or might love, too much.

**John 12:24**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,  
it remains alone; but ***if it dies, it bears much fruit.***

**Luke 14:33**

"So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not ***give up all his own possessions.***

TO ILLUSTRATE: The Story of Abraham and Isaac

A story we are told for TWO reasons at least: and ONE REASON is this truth:

Over and over, we are called upon to die to the thing we love the most, because we love it too much.

And sometimes, we are called to take this love of ours, and put it to death ourselves!

**ACT # 1: Genesis 22:1-6**

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

He said, "Take now ***your son, your only son, whom you love***, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

So ***Abraham rose early in the morning*** and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

***On the third day*** Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and ***we will worship and return to you.***"

Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

**NOTE # 1:** It begins as a story of simple obedience.

**John 14:15**

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

**Luke 14:27**

"Whoever does not **carry his own cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

**ACT # 2: Genesis 22:7-10**

Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham said, "**God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.**" So the two of them walked on together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

**NOTE #2:** This obedience is the obedience of faith: trusting God enough to obey Him

**Luke 6:46**

"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

**Luke 14:26**

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not **hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life**, he cannot be My disciple.

**Matthew 10:37**

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

**ACT #3: Genesis 22:11-18**

But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided." Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

**NOTE #3:** Only God knows how each story ends, but for the people who love God, the story is always more about life than about death

**John 12:24** "... *if it dies, it bears much fruit.*"

*Our ability as a church to get on with our appointed piece of God's project depends on a great number of us loving God this much!*

The SECOND reason we are told this story is that we might see something...

**NOTE #4:** This difficult thing that God calls His people to do from time to time: He Himself did.

**Romans 5:6-8**

For while we were still helpless, at the right time **Christ died for the ungodly**.

For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us**.

### **ACTION:**

**Loving God as you do, will you surrender to Him all that competes with that love in your heart?**

**2 Corinthians 5:14-16**

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.