

There is No Greater Love than This!

There is no greater love than to lay down one's
~~life~~ (attachments) for one's friends.

John 15:13

A Memorial Day tribute and contemplation

This morning I want to take a moment to remember the over 1.1 million U.S. soldiers who died on the battlefield defending this great nation. Some of those fallen soldiers were drafted into the army and some enlisted or joined voluntarily, but each of them gave the ultimate sacrifice, death for this great nation. We're free to worship, pray and assemble together today because of their sacrifice. There's no greater love than this that one lays down his life for friend.

There are so many scriptures in the bible that talks
about voluntarily dying for others

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

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.

Then there is today's scripture reference

John 15:13

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

But what would cause someone to willingly die for a friend?

My Story

As an army veteran, I remember my first day as a private. There was a busload of us young, scared, new recruits. When the bus stop and the doors opened, I heard this loud thunderous voice yell “you all have 5 seconds to get off this bus and four of them are already gone”. As we grabbed our duffel bags and belongings, we nearly trampled over each other trying to get off the bus to follow the command of that drill Sergeant.

After that day, for 10 grueling weeks we were taught the importance of bonding together to defeat the enemy. It was drilled into us day after day, repeatedly. During my time in basic training, I met some wonderful people that I developed strong bonds with, and they became my family, friends, and protectors. Some may say we were brainwashed and maybe we were, but because of our training, love of country and loyalty to each other we were willing to die defending our nation.

So, from a military standpoint, I can certainly understand why a person might fight and die to defeat one’s country. In fact, after September 11, even though I had been discharged from the Army and was a lot older, I would have willingly completed a tour of duty again because once a soldier, always a soldier.

But, what about you? What would make you give up your life for a friend? Why would someone voluntarily die for a friend?

What does this scripture really mean?

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend. To understand the scripture and make it applicable to our lives, let's replace the word life with the word attachments. There is no greater love than to lay down one's attachments for a friend. Non-attachment means to love in such a way that the person you love feels free.

The first 2 principles of Unity say 1) "There is only one present and one power. God the good and that 2) God is present in all people as our divine essence, our Christ nature.

When we bury our attachments (wanting things/people to change or be different) and see everyone as God, the Good, oneness, with non-duality, and love we are practicing the greatest love of all.

I heard a unity minister on YouTube put it this way:

#1. God is love

#2. I am love.

The church I grew up going to, when the members saw each other, they would greet each other by saying God is good all the time and all the time God is good.

They would also sing a little song that says "The Jesus in me, loves the Jesus in you. The Jesus in you, love the Jesus in me, it's so easy to love".

What would this world be like if everyone saw God, the Good in everyone and treated them like they believed it?

Today's Message
I Samuel 18-30

In the middle of the book of I Samuel a book filled with stories of war and blood shed, there is a beautiful love story about two soldiers and best friends who loved each other. This story clearly shows the different between what happens when someone practices non-attachment and non-duality verses attachment and duality.

David (whose name means **“beloved”** (Represents Christ consciousness)

Jonathan (whose name means **“gift of Jehovah or God's gift”** (Represents, non-attachment and non-duality or Oneness)

Saul (the father of Jonathan name means **“to ask for or prayed for”** (Represents attachment and Duality or separateness)

After David killed Goliath, the Bible says:

- Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.
- He made a blood covenant with David because he loved him as his own soul.

To show his love, covenant and non-attachment, Jonathan took off and gave David his:

- Robe (represents righteousness or kingdom of God within)
- garments (praise or a person's inner attitude)
- Sword (word of God)
- Bow (Strength)
- Belt or Girdle (Truth)

Jonathan was spiritually in love with David and each gift represented his spiritual willingness to lay down his life/attachments (power and control) for his friend.

On the other hand, Saul, Jonathan's father represented duality, jealousy, and attachments. Saul allowed pride to make him go insane as he developed a mental illness because he hated David so much and wanted him killed.

Saul hatred for David started because Saul overheard some women singing a song that said Saul has killed his thousands and David his 10,000 which made Saul very angry.

Despite Saul's relentless pursuit to kill David, David even when he could have done otherwise, continued to show Saul love, respect, and kindness (Christ Consciousness)

Jonathan ended up dying in war

Saul ended up committing suicide

David became king

- The story of David and Jonathan is about Non-attachment and non-duality.
- Jonathan loved David and was willing to lay down his life (attachments) for his friend because he saw the Christ within.
- Attachments as taught by Saul, leads to thoughts of harm and murder, jealousy, control, mindless pursuits, and mental health issues.
- Charles Fillmore said: “In Divine Mind, love is the power that joins and binds, in divine harmony, the universe and everything in it.”
- Our greatest gift to ourselves and others is the gift of non-attachment which is the greatest love of all.
- To love in such a way that the person you love feels free.
- This can only be accomplished by seeing everyone and everything as God the good. And by seeing everyone and everything as yourself because God is all there is.

- Let us take that thought into meditation
 - Ho'oponopono

I love you

I'm sorry

Please forgive me

Thank you