

COGA NEWS



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Living a Life of Sacrifice Like Jesus
- Upcoming Events
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Living a Life of Sacrifice Like Jesus

Bishop Cecil Reid

Mark 10:45 - "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

As followers of Christ, we are called to model our lives after the greatest example of love and sacrifice—**Jesus Christ Himself**. His life was not one of comfort or self-indulgence but of **servanthood, humility, and ultimate sacrifice**. As we reflect on His journey, we must ask ourselves: **How does my life compare to the way Jesus lived and gave of Himself?**

Jesus' Sacrifice: A Model for Us

From the moment Jesus came to earth, His mission was clear—to do the Father's will and to redeem humanity. He willingly left the glory of heaven to live among us, experiencing hunger, exhaustion, and rejection. Yet, despite these hardships, He never wavered in His purpose. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, comforted the brokenhearted, and ultimately laid down His life so that we might be saved (John 3:16).

Jesus did not seek personal gain or recognition. Instead, He emptied Himself, taking on the form of a servant (Philippians 2:5-8). In contrast, modern culture often encourages us to focus on **self-promotion, success, and personal comfort**. But Jesus calls us to something **greater**: a life of selfless love, service, and obedience to God.

What Does a Sacrificial Life Look Like?

- **Putting others before ourselves –**
Philippians 2:3 reminds us to "Do nothing out of selfish ambition... but in humility, value others above yourselves." This could mean listening patiently, forgiving freely, or encouraging those who are struggling.
- **Serving others joyfully –**
Jesus washed the feet of His disciples (John 13:14-15), showing that true leadership is found in serving. We can follow His example by **volunteering at church, helping the needy, and supporting those in need of encouragement**.

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• **Sacrificing our own desires –**

A life of sacrifice may require us to **let go of things** that hold us back spiritually. This could mean **giving up bad habits, spending more time in prayer, or making room for God’s plans instead of our own.** Romans 12:1 encourages us to “offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.”

• **Loving sacrificially –**

Jesus laid down His life for us (John 15:13), and He calls us to love others in the same way—with no conditions or limits. This means loving even when it’s inconvenient, forgiving when it’s hard, and showing kindness even when it’s undeserved.

A Call to Action

The world teaches us to seek personal happiness and security, but Christ teaches us to **deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him** (Luke 9:23). This doesn’t mean a life of suffering, but a life of purpose, joy, and fulfillment in serving God and others.

As we examine our lives, let us strive to **live more like Jesus**, embracing **sacrifice over selfishness, service over status, and love over indifference.** May we follow His example daily, shining His light in a world that desperately needs it. *Amen*

 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

APRIL

Leadership Conference

MAY

SE NW District Convention & AYPU Retreat

JULY *Get Ready for a Blessing!*

2024 Annual Church Growth Conference
July 15th-19th

Find more information on www.cogainc.org

 **A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT**

- "Spring is here! Time to trade my winter coat for a light jacket...then back to a winter coat...then back to a light jacket...then back to a winter coat..."
- "April: The month where my New Year's resolutions officially expire."
- "Spring cleaning is basically just me moving my mess from one room to another."
- "Spring: The perfect time of year to enjoy nature... I watch from inside my house, away from all the pollen."
- "I helped my friend move, and now my back is questioning all my life choices."
- "I tried to help my grandma with her phone... now I'm her IT support for life."
- "Helping others is great—until they ask for a ride to the airport at 5 AM."
- "Work hard, dream big... and then take a nap because you're exhausted."

