

## International Conversation Cafe

New Testament:                      How He Loves, I John 4

Central to the idea of love is the idea of sacrifice. History shows that people willingly suffer so that good can come to others. Corrie ten Boom hid Jews in her house during World War II, and as a result, suffered terribly in a concentration camp. Martin Luther King Jr. peacefully protested the injustices to African Americans and was assassinated as a result of hatred.

*Can you think of examples of people who suffered for the good of others?  
How did they suffer and what good did it bring about?*

Though God loves people, we turn away from God. We worship and place greater importance in our lives on other things besides God. Wealth, power, and prestige are often much more important to us than God. In addition, we do not treat others with respect and tend to criticize, judge, and want what is not ours. These are the things that show we are like Adam and Eve. We have turned from God. But God turns to us.

Jesus suffered so that people could be restored to a relationship of love and peace with God. In this way, God showed his love for the world.

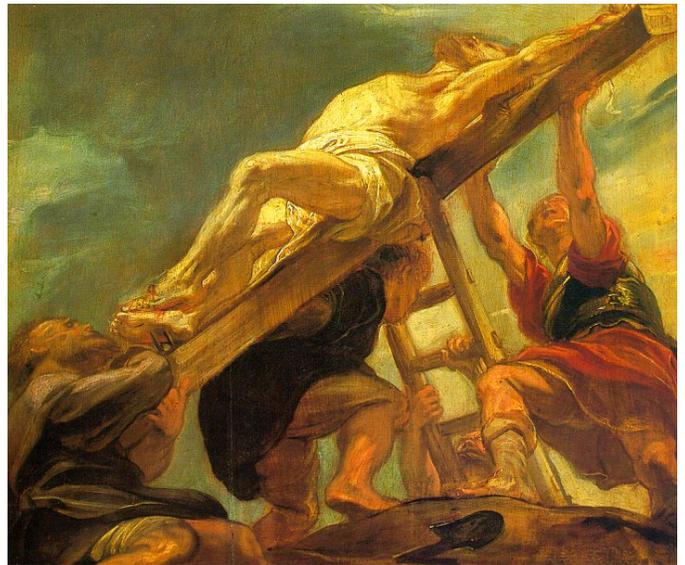
I John 4:9,10  
How did God show his love for us? He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him.

What is love? It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.

### **Love and Justice**

*Summarize I John 4:9 and 10.*

*When people break civil laws, society demands justice; the guilty person must pay the consequence. God asks that we obey two laws; to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. When we break God's laws, justice must be to the guilty. According to the above Scripture, how was God's justice satisfied in the death of Jesus?*



Peter Paul Reubens

*What does the word "substitute" mean and how does it relate to the death of Jesus Christ?*

**Three days after Jesus was crucified, he rose from the dead and appeared to his followers.**

John 20:24-30 (NIV)

Thomas was one of the Twelve. He was called Didymus. He was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe what you say."

A week later, Jesus' disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them.

He said, "May peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed."

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in front of his disciples. They are not written down in this book. But these are written down so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If you believe this, you will have life because you belong to him.

### **Final Thoughts**

*Describe the encounter between Jesus and Thomas.*

*How would you describe Jesus' reaction to Thomas' doubts?*

*What do you think is God's attitude about us when we doubt?*

*How can the resurrection of Jesus give us confidence in God?*



Caravaggio. The Incredulity of Saint Thomas. 1601-02. Oil on canvas. 107 x 146 cm. Schloss Sanssouci, Potsdam