



LIVING THE CROSS—PART 2

TO LOVE IS TO SUFFER

THE SUFFERING LOVE OF GOD

JEREMIAH 2:2, 5

“This is what the Lord says:
“I remember the devotion of your youth,
how as a bride you loved me
and followed me through the wilderness,
through a land not sown.
What fault did your ancestors find in me,
that **they strayed so far from me?**
They followed worthless idols
and became worthless themselves.”

HOSEA 11:1-4

“**When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.**

² But the more they were called, the more they went away from me.

They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.

³ It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them.

⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love.

**To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek,
and I bent down to feed them.**

God’s love for us means that:

- God suffers **BECAUSE OF** our rebellion, idolatry, and sin
- God suffers **WITH US** because He cares deeply about our well-being
- God suffers **FOR US**—bearing the consequences of sin in death

DO NOT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

EPHESIANS 4:29-32

Do not let any **unwholesome talk** come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

³¹ Get rid of all **bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.** ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, **forgiving each other**, just as in Christ God forgave you.

HEBREWS 10:26-29

If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

²⁹ How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished **who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?**

Let’s love God by seeking Him. In Him we find fulfillment, meaning, and joy.

Let’s be done with our idols through ruthless confession and active repentance.

SUFFER WITH GOD FOR THE WORLD

LUKE 19:41-44

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, **he wept over it** ⁴² and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

⁴⁴ ...you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

If we dare to join God in His love for the world, we make ourselves vulnerable to suffering.

By doing this, we can know Him and become like Him.