

**Scripture:** Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) & Genesis 22:1-19  
**Singing:** 373:2, 3, 5, 10 – 217:2, 4 – 190 – 304:2, 6 – 163:1, 2 – 399

## **The Vivid Picture of Divine Love**

I. The command of love II. The act of love III. The purpose of love

### **I. The command to love**

- A. Is there a command harder than God's to Abraham (22:1-2)?
1. to 'tempt' is to be understood as a testing (James 1:13)
  2. the timing of this testing (vs. 1)
  3. the weightiness of this command (vs. 2)
  4. the why of this testing? (1 Peter 1:7)
- B. Yet there is a command infinitely greater than God's to Abraham
1. God commanded His Son to do 'His business on earth' Luke 2:49; John 4:34
    - a. the central focus of Genesis 22 is John 3:16 (John 17:4)
    - b. Jesus lived His life knowing & following the commandment of His Father: John 10:17-18 and John 14:31

### **II. The Act of Love**

- A. True love is a sacrificial act (John 3:16)
1. Observe Abraham's response: *he obeyed fully and heartily*
    - a. fully: see vs. 3; 9-10
    - b. heartily: see vs. 5
  2. Observe Isaac's submission as an act of love likewise
    - a. he also obeyed without an objection
    - b. Isaac is but a faint glimmer of the bright glory of Golgotha
      - Unlike Isaac, Jesus walked *fully conscious* to the cross
      - Unlike Isaac, Jesus died in the context of *holy wrath* (Is. 53:10)
- B. True love can be no greater than what the Father and the Son did for sinners

### III. The purpose of love

A. God's purpose in Abraham's sacrifice was to test his love for His Savior

B. Yet the purpose of Father's sacrifice of His Son wasn't only to *show His love*

1. It was to make it possible to pardon our sins in a holy and just way

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According to Thy gracious Word,  
in meek humility,  
This will I do, my sacred Lord,  
I will remember Thee.

Thy body, broken for my sake,  
my bread from heaven shall be.  
The testamental cup I take  
and thus remember Thee.

Gethsemane, can I forget?  
Can I such conflict see,  
Thine agony of blood and sweat,  
And not remember Thee?

When to the Cross I turn mine eyes,  
and look to Calvary,  
O Lamb of God, my sacrifice,  
I must remember Thee.

Remember Thee, and all Thy pains,  
and all Thy love to me.  
Yes, while a breath, a pulse remains,  
will I remember Thee.

And when these failing lips grow dumb,  
and mind and strength will flee,  
When I must end this journey here,  
Jesus, remember me!

Adapted from James Montgomery, 1771-1854