

From the beginning, God has tried to help us understand the idea of sacrifice in connection with our worship of Him; and in particular our relationship with Him. God's command about sacrifice was that we give of our means, as we have been blessed – but offer something that was without blemish to show respect and gratitude in our worship.

Consider that the only time in the Old Testament that God asked anyone to sacrifice something that they truly loved was when He asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac¹; but this was only a test of Abraham's faith. It was a prelude to the God-like type of loving sacrifice.

The true meaning of sacrifice comes from the other direction – from God. The sacrifice of His Son is not an act of God's worship of us, but of His love for us. This can be thought of in these terms: "In this is true sacrifice, not that we gave some of our possessions to God, but that He gave His Unblemished and Beloved Son for us"².

In our communion with Christ we recognize also that He (the sacrifice) loves who He was sacrificed for, and He endured and overcame death on the cross to save us from our sins. In our worship of Him we show our love to Him in response.

1. Genesis 22
2. see 1 John 4:10