

Sunday, March 22 ~ Perfect Love ~ [John 6:27-40](#)

Scrolling through my Twitter feed, I saw a CNN tweet citing a study of college students between 1989 and 2016. "Today's college students are twice as likely to demand personal perfection than previous generations." I wasn't surprised considering the rise of social media and its propensity to foster comparison and unrealistic expectations. The study also placed blame on parents (of course it did) citing parents who are "more anxious and controlling than generations before."

This thirst for perfection is not new. What was the crux of the 613 Jewish laws if not perfection? The idea that we can earn eternal life by striving. What a relief to be certain in Christ's words - all we need to do is believe. Nothing we do or say changes God's love for those who believe He is the Way. The Truth. And The Life.

Our actions, however perfect by outward appearances, can never be "good enough." They can never measure the sincerity of a heart. Nothing we accomplish satisfies the insatiable fire of worldly perfection. Thanks be to God, He never intended for us to be perfect. Just to wholeheartedly exist in His perfect love. Love that inspires us to act not for our own glory but for His.

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John 6:27-40 New International Version (NIV)

²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

²⁸ Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

³⁰ So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’^[a]”

³² Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Footnotes:

- a. [John 6:31](#) Exodus 16:4; Neh. 9:15; Psalm 78:24,25