

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

June 27, 2025 – Jesus, Our Magnificent Obsession – Erlinda Cruz

Jesus, a Bridegroom with a Burning Heart of Love (Part 10)

The Nature of God: Love

Jesus called us to love our neighbor “as we love ourselves”; He also called us to hate our lives.

Both statements are true and in no way conflict with each other.

We love ourselves through the lens of the revelation of Jesus, His cross, and our great worth to Him. Jesus taught us to hate our life in the sense of finding our identity, pleasures, and life outside of relationship with Him.

We do this best by receiving and magnifying His supremacy in love.

He is magnified in us as we more fully receive Him as the God of love (1 Jn. 4:16). We magnify God in His enjoyment of releasing His glory and love in and through us as His Bride and enjoying our delight in His exaltation.

The glory of God in the identity of the Bride is God’s eternal plan, not man’s.

A man wants his wife and children to have everything he has. He is filled with joy in seeing his family observe his devotion and extravagance toward them (Lk. 11:13). “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him” (John Piper).

Bernard of Clairvaux called it loving ourselves for His sake—being jealous to have all that He wants in our lives for His sake. Jesus so enjoys watching us enjoying His love for us.

Jesus does not want us to walk in false humility that minimizes how “He loves loving us” and how He loves “us enjoying His love.” He is magnified when we boldly believe in His love.

Prayer:

Father, thank for your love shed abroad in our hearts by Holy Spirit! We are invested with your God kind of love, and we can't help but love others as a manifestation of the confession of our love to you! If we love you, we will love others, your love overflow to do so.