I loved my friends in high school. I was very lonely throughout high school, and having my friends around me cured that loneliness. I loved them because when I was around them, I felt whole, but when I wasn’t around them I felt empty. I loved my friends selfishly. The person who suffered the most from this, besides me, was my best friend Ivy. We were constant friends, and she was the person I would always message if I felt alone or empty. For that, I loved her, but this was not a Godly love. During the summer before college, she became so busy with her job that we couldn’t talk regularly. This is where my love fell short. I became so embittered with her because she wouldn’t fill my loneliness any more, and I wanted her to suffer as deeply as I suffered.

Coming to college, I was hoping for a clean slate and for new friends, and God provided. A random guy in my lecture invited me to JCA, and I found the friends I was so desperately looking for. I had never met people who were so willing to sacrifice for you, whether it was their time or their money. I wanted to be around them, not only because of the companion ship, but also because I wanted their love to flow into me. I went to services, and listened to sermons about a God who loved, and in His love, I saw how imperfect my love is. I saw how I withheld it from people I thought didn’t deserve it. I saw how I loved not for anyone else but myself. The clearest place where I was withholding love was with Ivy, the best friend that I turned my back, and I knew that God would want me to forgive her, but I couldn’t. There wasn’t enough of God’s love in my heart to overcome my love for myself. God kept working, pursuing me through family group hangouts, and through class hangouts. At the end of the spring of my freshman year, God had shown me much more love than I had ever received. My happiness was no longer stored in my relationships, and I finally forgave Ivy. God showed me that there are people who can love and love and love, but at the end of the day, God can love so much more than we can ever hope. 1 Corinthians 13.