

To Know the Love of Christ

July 23, 2017

Ephesians 3:14-21 NASB

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

16 **that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,**

17 **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,**

18 **may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,**

19 **and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.**

20 **Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,**

21 **to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.**

- *There is a direct correlation between knowing God's love for you and being filled with God's fullness. Therefore knowing God's love for you is essential for your spiritual health and growth.*
- *The more I know His love for me...*
 - *the safer I feel to truly bare my soul to Him...*
 - *the deeper my love, trust and surrender to Him...*
 - *the more I will be filled with His life and power.*

1 John 1:6-8 NASB

6 **If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;**

7 **but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

8 **If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD'S LOVE

OMNIPRESENT - *I always have His complete and undivided attention.*

- *The IMMENSITY of God means that God transcends all spatial limitations and boundaries.*
- *The OMNIPRESENCE of God means that God is present at every point, in every place, with His whole being.*
- *Therefore I never have to share His heart, His affections, His mind, His attention with any other being. Being infinite, God never has to divide His love, time, resources and attention into parts.*
- *There has never been any other person, who could even come close, to loving you that way, that much.*

Jeremiah 23:23-24 NASB

23 "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off?"

24 "Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

Psalm 139:7-10 NASB

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

Isaiah 41:10 NASB

10 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Hebrews 13:5 ESV

5 ...for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

OMNISCIENT - *There is no crisis of discovery with God.*

- *We can be surprised, disappointed and even devastated to discover, with time and opportunity, the faults, failures and sins of people in our lives. In any relationship, we can experience a crisis of discovery.*
- *Our sin(s) neither repel Him nor surprise Him. He simply desires relationship and communion.*
- *How hard do we hide our faults, failures and sins from others, fearing they will love us less or not at all if they find out?*

Psalm 139:16 NASB

16 And in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.

Luke 22:31-34 NASB

31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat;

32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

33 But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!"

34 And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."

Romans 5:7-8 ESV

7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die--

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 1:7 NASB

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

SOVEREIGN - *He takes great delight in ordering my steps, no detail is lost or overlooked.*

Acts 4:27-28 NASB

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,
28 **to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.**

Psalm 37:23 NASB

23 **The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way.**

NLT - "He delights in every detail of their lives."

Romans 8:28-29 NASB

28 **And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**

29 **For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.**

"Every event of your life - everything you do, everything that happens to you - is somehow woven together into a fabric that is making you more Christlike. There are millions of such events in your life each year, and God orchestrates them all for your good...But you're just one person...Only an infinite mind - and I truly mean infinite-is sufficient for such a task."

-- Jerry Bridges, "I Exalt You O God", *Everything Orchestrated for Good*

1 Corinthians 10:13 NASB

13 **No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.**

SACRIFICIAL - *Even if I was the only human on earth, He would have still died for me.*

- *God paid the greatest price for our redemption. No greater price could He have paid. He was willing to seek and save us no matter what the cost.*
- *We view ourselves as the other junk in a box sale that God was stuck with when purchasing what He really wanted.*

John 15:13 NASB

13 **"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."**

Romans 8:32 NASB

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

2 Peter 3:9 NASB

9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Ephesians 1:3-6 NASB

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

UNCONDITIONAL - *There is nothing I can do which would cause Him to love me less.*

- *To Father's heart, restored relationship is all that matters. What was done, how bad the sin, how many sins, lingering consequences, are all as nothing compared to the relationship being restored.*
- *God refuses to allow anything to come between Him and you. You are the only thing that can keep Him away.*

Luke 15:11-24 ESV

20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.

23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.