

God's Unconditional Love

April 25, 2019

Ephesians 3:14-17 ESV

14 **For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,**
15 **from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,**
16 **that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,**
17 **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love,**

- *We are to be rooted and grounded, secure and protected against the problems, needs and trials of this life, not moved or tossed about in uncertainty, worry and fear.*
- *We are rooted and grounded specifically in God's love for us. Not because we have earned it or deserved it, not because we have successfully conducted a religious formula or have behaved properly, but because God loves us, and loves to take care of us.*

Matthew 6:25-32 ESV

25 *Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?*
26 *Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*
27 *And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?*
28 *And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,*
29 *yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*
30 *But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?*
31 *Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'*
32 *For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.*

Psalms 56:3-4 ESV

3 *When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.*
4 *In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?*

Psalms 56:8-9 ESV

8 *You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?*
9 *Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me.*

Ephesians 3:18-21 ESV

18 **may have strength** (*exischyō - to have full strength, entirely competent, be able*) **to comprehend** (*katalambanō - to lay hold of, to make one's own, obtain, apprehend*) **with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,**

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

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- *Paul is praying that we would know and comprehend the dimensions and the boundaries of the love of Christ (“...breadth and length and height and depth...”).*
- *Paul is praying that we would have the strength (KJV & NASB - “to be able”) to comprehend the dimensions and the boundaries of the love of Christ.*
- *The dimensions and the boundaries of God’s love are:*
 - *His Word*
 - *His Sovereignty*
- *We stay within those dimensions and boundaries by submission and obedience to:*
 - *His Word*
 - *His Sovereignty*
- *Not a self-willed, self-disciplined, self-righteous obedience - but an obedience birthed in Christ living in me.*
- *You will not know and experience the love of God and the fullness of God outside of the boundaries of obedience.*

John 14:21-24 ESV

21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”

23 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

- *God loves everyone unconditionally in the cross of Christ. Forgiveness and salvation is free (apart from works) by faith and God’s grace regardless of the sin committed.*
- *But the cross that makes us righteous without works is the same cross on which we were crucified in Christ, the body of sin being destroyed.*

Romans 6:1-3 ESV

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Romans 6:6 ESV

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

2 Peter 2:20-22 ESV

20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than

the first.

21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

Ephesians 5:5-8 ESV

5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

7 Therefore do not become partners with them;

8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

Hebrews 10:10-14 ESV

10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

14 For by a single offering he has perfected (teleioō - make perfect, to add what is yet wanting, finish, consecrate, to make complete, accomplish) for all time those who are being sanctified (hagiazō - to separate from profane things and dedicate to God).

1 John 3:6-10 ESV

6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice (poieō - to produce, render, bear, carry out, execute, make ready) righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.