

EPHESIANS 3:17-19 ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE

We should speak of the deepening of our knowledge of God and our love for Him. We are as children paddling at the edge of the ocean. There are depths in this love of God of which we know nothing. Paul wanted these Ephesians to go out into the depths and the deeps, and discover things they never imagined.

1. ROOTED IN LOVE

3:17

hinpurpose clause -- "In order that" or with the purpose that, or with the result that, "Ye being rooted and grounded in love." Now stop right there for a minute. This is fabulous. Everybody wants love. Everybody wants to know love and experience love and give love and receive love and enjoy love. And here's the key--a strong inner man leads to Christ being at home which leads to being rooted and grounded in love. Now you'll never know love in your life until you follow the first two steps, the third one is incomprehensible love. Inner strength leads to the indwelling Christ which leads to incomprehensible love. Another one of the purpose clauses in the Greek here. The result of Christ, now watch this one, the result of Christ's unrestricted access to the Christian's heart is love. You see, when Christ settles down in your life He will begin to exude His personality. You see, if He controls the library, the thinking, if He controls the dining room, the appetite, if He controls the living room, the fellowship, the discussions, the sharing, the conversation, the entertainment, if He controls the workshop, what is being done, the use of abilities and gifts and functions. If He's got the closet clean then His nature dominates and His nature is what? Love, love. The result of Christ's unrestricted access to the believer's heart is love. That's when you become rooted and grounded in love. That's when you really experience it.

You'll never know that love until you have inner strength and the indwelling Christ, until you have come to the place where you've yielded to the Holy Spirit, Christ settles down home in your life, and He begins to exude His love. Then it dominates you, it roots you, it grounds you. And this is his prayer for you that you know His love. Jesus said, "The new commandment I give unto you that you love one another as I have loved you that ye also love one another." In [I Peter 1:21](#) and following he talks about this, verse 22 says; "Seeing that you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another with a pure heart fervently." This is God's desire. Chapter 4 verse 8 he talks about love covering a multitude of sins. You know as well as I do that love is a vital part of the Christian's experience. We are to manifest the fruit of the Spirit, the first one is the... the fruit of the Spirit is love and then somebody says joy, peace, gentleness, faith, goodness, meekness and self control are simply subcategories of love. Love is an attitudes of selflessness. Love is an attitude of unsac ... unselfish sacrifice, love is service. I don't think we should keep defining love as an emotion, we've gone through that in I Cor. 13, love is not an emotion in the Bible, never. Love is an act of selflessness. God so loved the world that He felt emotional about it. No. God so loved the world that He did what? He gave the best that He had. If any man loves Me he will keep My words. If you don't meet your brothers need, [I John 3:16](#), how dwells the love of God in you. You see, love is not an emotion, people, it is selflessness. It is sacrifice. It is meeting someone's need. It is serving somebody. It is dying for somebody. "Greater love has no man than this that a man feel really emotional about his friends." No. "Greater love hath no man than this that a man," what?

"Lay down his life for his friend." It's always sacrifice, it's always selflessness, it's always giving something, it's always serving something.

And if we're ever going to know what it is to serve and to sacrifice and to give with unlimited generosity, it will only be when we know the incomprehensible love of Christ. And we'll never know that until He is the indwelling Christ who is at home in us and that will never happen until we've experienced the inner strengthening of the Spirit of God. And this is the turn on, people; this is what is going to make the difference.

O Once the Spirit of God takes over, Christ settles down and is at home, and we become rooted and grounded in the love that is His nature that permeates us. You know, I find that that is exactly what happens in my own love. That when I realize my own sinfulness, when I deal with my own weakness and when I really walk in the Spirit, Christ is at home in my life and things are right in my life, I just feel love, I just have a desire to serve, I just have a desire to meet needs. I find myself doing things that I normally wouldn't even do.

Rooted and grounded in love. And then it says not only will we experience it, we'll be rooted and grounded in it, John MacArthur

A. ILLUSTRATION OF A TREE

This first metaphor is botanical. It compares the believer to a plant rooted in the love of God. Love is pictured as something that nourishes us

1 Cor 3:9

You can think of a majestic oak tree whose roots go down into the depths of the earth.

It can stand forever. It has depth and strength. It also means vitality, energy and growth.

Love is the soil in which our Christian life is set and in which it grows. It is to be rooted to get to get the various chemicals from the soil and water.

Love is what builds up the Christian life.

The real strength of a Christian's life is love. Love is the most powerful influence in the world.

Song of Solomon 8:6

Love, not knowledge, makes us strong Christians. 1 Cor 8:1

B. AGAPE

John 15:13, 1 John 4:9-12, 19-21, Matthew 22:37-39, Rom 13:8-10

Love should be the predominating and prevailing element in our lives and conduct.

2. GROUNDED IN LOVE

3:17

The second metaphor compares the believer to a building established on love as a foundation. This is a picture of a solid foundation.

A. ILLUSTRATION OF A BUILDING

1 Cor 3:10, Matthew 7:24

A wise master-builder knows exactly the kind of soil he is dealing with whether

There is too much clay or sand and the possibility of shifting. The larger and

higher the building the more important is the foundation.

This is a building that has strength that can withstand stress and strains. It is fixed and permanent.

All relationships must be based upon love. Everything is to be grounded in love.

Is our attitude towards God one of love?

B. STABILITY

It must be stable and constant and never shake or move. Our love is to be like God's love. Does our love for other people vary according to their variations?

C. DESIRING AND LOVING GOD'S LAW

Nothing but a deep love to God can stand up to the trials and the stresses and strains of life. When I can't understand or explain, love still holds me up.

Psalms 119:165, 97, 127

D. LOVING ONE ANOTHER

E. LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

Matthew 5:43-48

3. COMPREHENDING WITH ALL THE SAINTS 3:18

This is the real objective to Paul's prayer. This is the chief object, This is a pinnacle of truth. One of the highest attainments in the Christian life is to know the love of Christ.

This verse actually has to do with God's love for us.

A. POSSIBLE FOR ALL CHRISTIANS

B. THE DISCOVERY OF THE WAY TO THIS KNOWLEDGE

That you may be fully able. We need a special strength to know the love of Christ.

C. WIDTH, LENGTH, DEPTH, HEIGHT

This suggests vastness.

1. Width

It is broad enough to encompass all of mankind.

Rev 5:9-11, 7:9

2. Length

It is long enough to last for eternity. It started in eternity. An agreement was entered into between God the Father and God the Son.. It concerned salvation.

The fall of man was foreseen, everything known, and the Son entered into a Covenant with His Father that He would save them and redeem them. The Father Covenanted with the Son to grant certain privileges and blessings to the people and blessings were given to the Son.

The length conveys the endless character of the love of Christ.

Jere 31:3, Rev 13:8, 17:8, Heb 7:25 The line is unbroken.

3. Depth

It is deep enough to reach the most depraved sinner.

Eph 2:1-3, Phil 2:6-8

4. Height

It is high enough to exalt the sinner to heaven.

Eph 1:3, 2:6, Phil 3:20-21, John 17:24, 1 Jn 3:1-2, Eph 5:27

He has set His affections on us. He desires to share all His privileges and blessings And enjoyments.

4. KNOWING THE UNKNOWABLE

A. APPARENT CONTRADICTION—COMPREHEND

How can you know something that can't be known?

If it can't be understood, how can it be understood? If it surpasses knowledge

We can't exhaust the love of Christ by our knowledge, we can, nevertheless know this love truly. We can't know exhaustively but we can know truly.

We need to know Christ's love to us. Instead we spend time thinking about our activity and our circumstances and problems.

We can grow in our awareness of Christ's love, particularly through hardships, sufferings and persecutions of life.

B. KNOW THE LOVE

This is the love of Christ for us. Paul prays that they might know it in the fullest

Biblical sense of the word. The chief idea is experience. Paul wanted them to experience the love of Christ, which in its fullest sense surpasses human knowledge.

The more we know Christ the more we will know His love

C. PASSES KNOWLEDGE

D. IS IT POSSIBLE AT THIS PRESENT TIME

1 Pet 1:8, John 14:20-21, 17:23