



Pastor Saolomon Mouacheupao—Love That Surpasses Knowledge—March 16, 2025—Ephesians 3:14-21

Main Idea: God's love for you is so great that you need supernatural help to comprehend it.

Sermon Summary: The things and people we love, shape us. Those who love us, shape us. Those who should love us and don't, shape us. This speaks to our most important relationships: spouse, kids, family, friends, etc. Yet nothing should shape and change us more than God's love for Christians. God wants to "blow our minds" to help us understand His infinite love for us in Christ.

1. Paul's Prayer (starts in 3:14)

- It's reasonable to draw lessons on how to pray from these verses. Better to focus on the content of this prayer.
- "For this reason" takes us back to the lofty doctrines of chapters 1-3: election, predestination, redemption, adoption, reconciliation, etc
- And before Paul gets to the practical Christian living in chapters 4-6—he pauses—and cannot help but erupt in overflow prayer to God
- We all have ideas about God—so we are all theologians—for better or worse. Atheists think He does not exist. Other gods/religions.
- Accurate/deep theology should and really must lead us to deep devotion and love for God—and prayer to Him—just like Paul.
- God wants us to bring our needs/wants to Him (He knows them before we ask!). But let Paul's prayer here change our prayers: that we might be filled to comprehend the infinite dimensions of God's love for us in Christ thru the power of the Holy Spirit! This is reality!

2. God's Power (3:14-16)

- In verses 3:2-13 Paul shifts to the mystery/mercy of God including gentiles into His kingdom.
- We pray in large part because of God's power—if He is unable, then why pray?
- But wonder of wonders--Christians have access to God—the Creator of the universe and all people-- because we are adopted into His family thru His love. We are called by His Name. We only have this privilege because of the work of Christ on our behalf.
- God intends the church truly IS our family (Matt. 12:46-50). We covenant and commit to warmly love and help each other.

3) God's love (3:17-19)

- Paul prays for power in our inner being. That God would enable us thru His Spirit to comprehend Christ's love for us.
- As important as prayer for social issues is (egs: ending hunger, war, homelessness, abortion, etc), Paul's prayer is more foundational. As we fall on our faces before God in humble worship and awe of His love for us—a natural result will be loving others and helping them.
- Paul is asking God as an infinite being to supernaturally enlarge our comprehension of His infinite love. This is "mind blowing".
- How can God love me in view of all my awful, ugly sin? How do I endure given the pain and hardship in life? Look to the cross—the love, mercy and grace shown there is greater than the worst sins and problems.

- Rom. 5:8; “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Its rare for someone to be willing to die even for an especially good person. But we were God’s enemies when He died for us.
- Paul’s prayer here is for everyone including mature Christians.

4) God’s Glory (3:20)

- The church is to be a trophy case of God’s love—showing God off to the world.
- Verse 3:21; Amen means “so be it”. When we say amen after someone prays—it’s as though we prayed it. So hundreds of voices and hearts join together in that prayer. We can all do that for Paul’s prayer here.

Questions (select some to discuss):

- Have you ever been reading Scripture or talking to someone about Christian things—and felt so moved in your soul that you simply had to pray to and praise God right there and then—you could not keep it in?
- Has the realization of God’s love for you in Christ ever brought you to your knees in tears? (God made us with differing dispositions—some more emotive—others less. But has God’s love for you ever moved you deeply in your soul)?
- If you are a Christian, how do you process that you were adopted into God’s family? Describe what is adoption is. Would you ever adopt someone? Why or why not?
- Paul praying for God’s power to enable us to see God’s infinite love for us in Christ is deep and profound. How can our prayers get beyond our needs/wants? (Egs: Praying the Psalms, using ACTS: Adoration-Confession-Thanksgiving-Supplication, etc).
- Have you ever felt your sins are so bad they can keep you from God’s love and mercy?
- Do you feel like Bethel church really is your family? Is there warmth, true caring, trust, love, etc?
- Paul prays in 3:19 that: (a) “...the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge...”. What does this mean to you? Have you ever experienced this? Describe? (b) “...that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God”. What does this mean to you? Has God ever filled you up so much...that you ask Him to stop?
- Pastor Saolomon suggested that if we could live in a consistent state of wonder of God’s love for us, it would be life-altering. How so do you think?
- What are some ways we can remind ourselves of God’s love in daily life?