

**“THE DIMENSIONS OF GOD’S LOVE”**

In this month of hearts and love, we look to the greatest love of all

**EPHESIANS 3:14-21**

Everything in our daily experience is measured in three dimensions -

**Genesis 1:1 NKJV** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Think of time, space, color, music, matter, essence, our world itself, human life.... for creation mirrors God’s trinity

But in describing God’s love, Scripture mentions four dimensions (v.18)

**The Width of His Love**

1. It is for ALL nations on earth (v.5-6, 14-15)

\* From Genesis to Revelation!

**Genesis 12:3 NKJV** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

**Revelation 7:9 NKJV** After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

\* The mission of the Church -

**Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV** 19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* 20 *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

2. It is for ALL persons

\* Jesus died for all people -

**1 John 2:2 NKJV** And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

**Matthew 18:12-13 NKJV** 12 *“What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? 13 And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that *sheep* than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray.*

\* God wants for all to be saved -

**2 Peter 3:9 NKJV** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**1 Timothy 2:4 NKJV** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**Luke 13:34 NKJV** *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen *gathers* her brood under *her* wings, but you were not willing!*

\* He invites ALL to come -

**John 3:16 NKJV** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

**Revelation 22:17 NKJV** And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

**The Length of His Love**

1. From Eternity Past

\* In timeless ages before creation, the love of God was fixed on us to redeem us -

**Matthew 25:34 NKJV** *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

**Revelation 13:8 NKJV** All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

\* Before we ever existed, God knew the end from the beginning, and made a way for us to be with Him in glory

## 2. Into Eternity Future

- \* Into timeless ages yet to come (“the ages of the ages”), the redeemed will love and serve the Lord -  
**Ephesians 2:4,7 NKJV** 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- \* We will bask in His loving care and presence for all eternity to come -  
**Revelation 21:2-5 NKJV** 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and* be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

## The Depth of His Love

1. Down, down, down our Savior came to demonstrate His love -  
**John 15:13 NKJV** **Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.**
- \* He came from Heaven’s glory to Bethlehem’s crude stable -  
**Philippians 2:6-7 NKJV** 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.  
**Luke 2:7 NKJV** And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.
- \* He came from angels’ constant praise to men’s rejection -  
**John 1:10-11 NKJV** 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.  
**Isaiah 53:3 NKJV** He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
- \* He came from infinite wealth to misery and poverty - a “Riches to Rags” story -  
**2 Corinthians 8:9 NKJV** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
2. Jesus went down into the lowest realms of suffering and sacrifice for us -  
**Romans 5:8 NKJV** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- \* He goes down to the crush of Gethsemane -  
**Matthew 14:33-34 NKJV** 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.” 34 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.
- \* He goes down to the debasement of Gabbatha -  
**John 19:13 NKJV** When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called *The* Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.
- \* He goes lower to the torture of Golgotha - a “God-forsaken” place -  
**Matthew 27:45-46 NKJV** 45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”
- \* He goes down to the tomb -  
**John 19:41-42 NKJV** 41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews’ Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.
- \* He goes down to Sheol (Hades) to announce His victory over Satan and Hell -  
**Colossians 2:15 NKJV** Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.  
**1 Peter 3:19 NKJV** by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,
3. But it doesn’t end there on the lowest note, or it would be the ultimate downer

## The Height of His Love

1. If “You can’t keep a good man down” - how much more true of the God-Man, Jesus!
- \* He rises bodily from the grave, lifting the curse of sin, death and condemnation -  
**1 Corinthians 15:55-57 NKJV** 55 “O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?”

56 The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. 57 But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

\* He rises bodily to prove His resurrection and show His followers what to do now -

**Acts 1:3 NKJV** to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

\* He rises bodily from earth into the Heavens before His followers -

**Acts 1:9 NKJV** Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

\* He ascends to glory leading captive the Old Testament believers -

**Ephesians 4:8-9 NKJV** 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

\* He ascends back to God's throne, to be given the ruling scepter of the universe -

**Hebrews 1:8-9 NKJV** 8 But to the Son *He* says: "Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

2. He's been given the highest name and the highest honor -

**Philippians 2:9-10 NKJV** 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

**Ephesians 1:20-21 NKJV** 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

God wants YOU "*to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fulness of God*"