

KNOWING THE LOVE OF CHRIST

When the Truth Moves from the Mind into the Heart

Ephesians 3:14–19 | Communion

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Governing Truth: God desires that we not only understand His love, but experience its transforming reality in our hearts and express it toward one another.

The Movement of the Message

- 1. LOVE REVEALED — The cross makes the love of God visible.**
- 2. LOVE ROOTED — The Spirit makes the love of Christ at home in the heart.**
- 3. LOVE REFLECTED — Christ's love becomes visible through His body.**

A question to carry

Am I merely able to explain that God loves me—or am I learning to live as a person who is loved by God?

Notes

A Biblical Picture — Luke 24:13–35

The disciples knew many of the facts, yet they were still walking in sadness. Jesus came near, listened to their sorrow, opened the Scriptures, and awakened their hearts to Himself.

Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us? — Luke 24:32

Key Insight: Jesus did not bypass their minds. He used the truth to bring them into a living encounter with Himself.

At the broken-bread table

Their eyes were opened as Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. The Table invites us not merely to inspect the truth, but to receive by faith the Savior whom the bread and cup proclaim.

Heart questions

- Where is disappointment making it difficult for me to see Christ clearly?
- Is biblical truth changing where my heart goes and how my heart relates?
- Is my experience of Christ drawing me toward His people or deeper into isolation?

Notes

1. Love Revealed at the Cross — Romans 5:6–11

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. — Romans 5:8

Paul describes us as helpless, ungodly, sinners, and enemies. A sinner is not merely someone who makes mistakes, but someone who rejects God's rightful rule. No sin is morally insignificant. Yet God moved toward us at our worst and gave His Son to reconcile us to Himself.

At the Table: The bread and cup bring the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ before our hearts and senses. They declare, "This is how deeply you have been loved."

The love of the Triune God

The Father loved and sent the Son. The Son loved us and gave Himself for us. The Holy Spirit pours the reality of that demonstrated love into our hearts.

The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. — Romans 5:5

Heart questions

- Where am I still trying to earn the place Christ purchased by grace?
- What accusation of fear or shame needs to be answered by the cross?
- Can I place myself inside the word us: Christ died for us?

Notes

2. Love Rooted in the Heart — Ephesians 3:14–19

That He would grant you...to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. — Ephesians 3:16–17

Paul prays that Christ would increasingly make His home in every room of the believer's heart. Receiving love may require courage when the heart has learned to protect itself through fear, performance, control, or isolation.

Two pictures

THE HOUSE — Are there rooms of grief, shame, anger, fear, or disappointment that I keep locked from the loving presence of Christ?

THE SEED — Truth can be stored accurately in the mind like seed in a bin. God intends His truth to enter the soil of the heart, take root, and bear relational fruit.

At the Table: Ask the Spirit to carry the truth of the cross into the rooms you guard and the soil of your inner person.

Heart questions

- What guarded place needs the truth, grace, and love of Christ?
- Does correction feel like rejection? Does failure threaten my identity?
- What would change if my heart rested securely in Christ's love?

Notes

3. Love Reflected through the Body

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. — John 13:34

We comprehend the love of Christ “with all the saints.” There are dimensions of His love we learn as another believer listens, bears with us, forgives, prays, speaks truth, weeps, and remains present.

Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. — 1 Corinthians 10:17

Key Movement: Love that takes root begins to bear fruit. Love opens the heart toward others; fear closes and guards it.

A place at the family table

Pastor Dan's father adopted him, gave him his name, and consistently treated him as his son. The legal act established the relationship; daily love enabled him to experience its reality. In Christ, God has given us His name and a settled place in His family.

At the Table: Look not only at the bread but at those receiving it with you. The Father who gave you a place has given them a place too.

Heart questions

- Am I receiving Christ's care through His people?
- Is fear closing my heart where Christ's love is calling me toward someone?
- Am I indifferent toward anyone for whom Christ gave His body?

Notes

Come to the Table as People Who Are Loved

LOVE REVEALED — The Table declares: “This is how deeply you have been loved.”

LOVE ROOTED — The Table invites: “Receive this love into your heart.”

LOVE REFLECTED — The Table calls: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Prayerful reflection

- Is there a place in my heart where I am still hiding from His love?
- Am I receiving the love of Christ through His people?
- Am I withholding from someone the love I have received?
- Is there a confession, forgiveness, conversation, or step toward reconciliation God is calling me to take?

Remember: We do not come as strangers hoping the Father will make room for us. We come as sons and daughters for whom a place has already been prepared.

My response

Notes

My prayer: