

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 4/28/2024

Life in the Light – Ephesians 3

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- Paul went to Ephesus (about 300,000 people), lived and worked, and talked with the people both Jews and Greeks – about Jesus mostly in the Hall of Tyrannus for 2 years. (Acts 19:9-10). He probably reached about 2 Billion people (social networking at its best!)
 - **Lives were changed in Ephesus**
- Every letter from Paul to the churches is a direct communication urging them to become Everyday Disciples.
 - Week 1: Everyday Disciples consider what God has done more than what we want Him to do.
 - Week 2: Everyday Disciples embrace they are saved by grace which leads to good works, not the other way around.
 - Week 3: Everyday Disciples know if their personal life is built on Jesus (our Cornerstone), all of their relationships can be too.
 - We shouldn't put Jesus on the backburner and expect Him to move in all the areas of life we want Him to.
- The Mystery = Mysterion = hidden things
- **Eph. 3:4-5** The mystery of God and His bigger plan was not revealed until Jesus
 - People of the Old Testament times just couldn't see it
 - There was something blocking their understanding of the Messiah; which is why they didn't accept Jesus as Messiah when He was on earth
- **Eph. 3:6** all people were to partner with God, not just the Israelites. The plan from the Garden of Eden was all people, not just the Jews (who didn't "exist" as a people group until Abraham!)
- **Eph. 3:8-9** unknown – Old Covenant/Testament, known – New Covenant/Testament
 - The new (known) was fulfilled in Jesus
- **Eph 3:10-12** We may approach God through faith in Jesus, and have freedom and confidence
 - God no longer sees our differences, He sees us as one through the blood
- **Eph. 3:16-17a** Inner being = inner man (eso Anthropos).
 - You also have an outer man (person): the part that everyone sees
 - The Inner being is unseen but felt and experienced; it's our Spirit self (it's Jesus moving in our lives)
 - We tend to prioritize our outer being – jobs, appearance, status, wealth, etc.
 - **When we prioritize our inner self, all things we do to support our outer (human) self fall into proper priority.**
- **Eph. 3:17b-19** Width, length, depth, height are all measure terms
 - We can grasp onto and measure God's love for us.
 - His love is **wide** – it covers all. There is no spot on earth that Jesus's love doesn't cover; you can't find the end of His love for you
 - His love is **long** – it has no end. Jesus has always loved you (even before you were born) and has never stopped loving you.
 - His love is **high** – it draws you toward Him. Jesus wants to pull you toward Him, He loves you so much.
 - His love is **deep** – He loves you at all cost. His love cannot be compared to any love we know on earth (even for your family).

- **Eph. 3:20-21** His love is measurable, but at the same time immeasurable. Look how much He loves me (how deep, wide, etc.) but turnaround and it's hard to understand how much He loves you (immeasurable).
- **Everyday Disciples make efforts to grasp the width, height, depth, and length of God's love, while also embracing it's impossible to fully understand. Both are important to our growth in Christ.**
 - **Assignment:** On Monday pray to God and acknowledge that you see how much He loves you. Be specific. I know you love me because of" On Tuesday pray, God, I cannot understand how much you love me! Keep going back and forth for a whole week.
- **Everyday Disciples prioritize their spiritual self over their human self.**
- **Car Convesation:**
 - What do you wonder about when you consider who God is?
 - A.W. Tozer, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."
 - How would you share God's love with someone else?

The bottom line:

The fullness of the love of Jesus may make little sense to many, but it doesn't make it any less real or life changing.