

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.

Overview

Sermon: *Live Filled*

¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. — Ephesians 3:16-19 (NIV)

Here is Paul's great prayer for the church; a prayer he prayed on his knees. The standard posture for prayer among Jews was to stand with arms outstretched and looking to heaven. That was perfectly fine and Paul encourages that in 1 Timothy 2:8, but there are times when, like the tax-collector, we are driven to our knees. For that tax-collector (Luke 18:9-14) it was guilt and shame that brought him to his knees; for Paul it was the joy of God's loving grace that did so.

Paul's deep longing was that the church, which by God's grace now included all of humanity in a new race, could know the same love of Christ that gratefully brought him to his knees. It is a love beyond measurement and it is ours! We cannot fully grasp it, but we can joyfully receive it and passionately live in the power of His immeasurable love.

We cannot explain such love, but we can celebrate it and we can proclaim it! Where is the power to do that? It is not in us, but...

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:19-20 NIV)

Discussion

1. As you think of God, what do you first feel? Is it fear, shame, remorse, or guilt? Or is it joy and comfort?
2. Do you share the sentiment in John Newton's famous hymn, "'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved..."? How does grace move us from fear to relief?
3. What drives you to your knees in prayer? Are there things you may take for granted that perhaps should bring you to your knees? If so, what might those things be?
4. Why do you think it was so important for Paul that the church grasp the immeasurable love of Christ? Do you think it's important that Paul did not say "that *each* of you...", but rather that "you (plural)..." together with all the Lord's holy people" grasp Christ's love?" In what ways do we do this together?

Application

5. List ways that grasping the Love of Christ changes your life? List ways that grasping the love of Christ changes *our* lives together as the church.
6. An old hymn says, "Christ receiveth sinful men, even me with all my sin." In light of that love, how should you and how should we receive others? What's our next step to be in that response to the Love of Christ?

February 24, 2019

