

Rooted in Love

Introduction

Ephesians 3:17-19

1. **Paul had a desire that the Ephesians would come to know the full scope of God's love for us.**
2. **Likewise, we need to know God's love for us and trust in it.**

Love Begins with God

1. **One of the most quoted passages in all the Bible tells us of the great love of God.**

John 3:14-16 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **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.

2. **God loved us so much because God is love.**

1 John 4:8-10 He who does not love does not know God, **for God is love**. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

3. God would like nothing more than for all to become His children.

1 John 3:1-2 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

4. Christ showed the greatest of love for us in giving His life.

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

5. Jesus did this even though we were sinners.

Romans 5:6-8 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The Nature of God's Love

1. It surpasses all knowledge.

Ephesians 3:17-19

2. The love of God is tied to His rich mercy and grace.

Ephesians 2:4-9

3. True love – is something that suffers long.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

4. Loves does no harm.

Romans 13:8-10 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER," "YOU SHALL NOT STEAL," "YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS," "YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

5. We are also to love our enemies.

Matthew 5:43-48

Our Response to God's Love

1. In response to God's love for us, we are to love Him completely.

Matthew 22:36-40

2. We are to obey His commands.

John 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

1 John 5:2-3 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. **And His commandments are not burdensome.**

3. Love will move us to live for Him – He will be a reflection in life.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live **should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.**

4. We demonstrate our love for Christ in showing a love for one another.

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, **we also ought to love one another.**

Conclusion

- 1. Christians understand God's wrath for those who are unrighteous, but we also know of His great love for us – even while we were sinners.**
- 2. His love is too big for us to fully comprehend, but He shows it to us through His Son Jesus.**
- 3. The proper response, the one in which he expects us to do, is to love Him in return and obey His commands.**
- 4. Are we really trusting in His love?**
- 5. Have we fully obeyed Him in all aspects of our life?**
- 6. If not, let's do so today.**

