

Grasping the Fullness of God's Love

October 15, 2023 ▪ Nat Porter

God _____ us to know the _____ of his love in Christ.

God _____ us to know the _____ of his love in Christ.

God _____ us to know the _____ of his love in Christ.

God _____ us to show the _____ of his love in Christ.

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: How would our understanding of the world be different if we didn't have microscopes and telescopes? How have magnifying instruments impacted our daily life?

Read and Discuss: Ephesians 3:14-19

1. Paul picks up in verse 14 where he left off in 3:1, stating "For this reason..." he bows in prayer before the Father. What does the preceding context suggest is the "reason" Paul has in mind when he prays as he does in the following verses?
2. What specific things does being "strengthened with power" from God enable a believer to do in verses 17-19? How does this result in being "filled with all the fulness of God" (v. 19)? What do you think it means to be filled with all the fullness of God? Why would this be desirable?
3. What do we normally assume to be the process for how a person goes about acquiring an understanding of something? How should we approach this in light of the fact that *divine power* is required to give us "strength to comprehend" (v. 18) aspects of the person and work of God?
4. What does Paul want believers to understand about the love of Christ in verse 18? Why would knowing this require "strength" from God? If something "surpasses knowledge," how can it actually be known?

Read and Discuss: Ephesians 3:20-21

5. When you think of the power God has to do beyond all that we might venture to ask or even imagine, what kind of things come to mind that God is able to do?
6. When Paul writes about what God is able to do "according to the power that is at work within us," (v 20), the text indicates that Paul specifically has in view the great things God does in and among His people. Based on Ephesians chapters 1-2, how would you summarize the great and unimaginable work of God for and among his people?
7. Of all of the things in creation that Paul could have alluded to for which God is worthy of glory, Paul focuses on just two: the church and Jesus Christ. What does that imply about the place of Christ and His redeemed church in relation to the display of His glory throughout the universe?

For Reflection and Prayer: How do you see God's power at work in your life and in your church family? What kind of expectations should we have for how we will experience God's power among us? What can/should we do when our experiences fall short of our expectations? What are some practical things you can do to deepen your understanding and experience of the "love of Christ"? What are things you can ask God to do to deepen your understanding and experience of the "love of Christ"?