

Trust the Love Part 4

Ephesians 3:14-21; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 6/20/21

*The love of the Father is the only rest for the soul.
- John Owen, Communion with the Triune God*

1. We need to seriously ask God for what we really need (14)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, (14)

He is praying to the Father. He is asking for a revelation of the love of God to believers. He is asking in light of access to riches, the threat of losing heart, the need for love for others and for the glory of God.

2. For the gracious work of the Father in his children (14-16)

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶ that He would grant you,

He is asking for a gift of God's grace. He is asking that this gift be given to them because it is available to all God's children.

3. To strengthen our faith in Christ by the Spirit (16-17)

according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; (16b-17a)

He is asking that believers be strengthened, by the Spirit, according to power that God Himself has, in their hearts, in their faith.

4. To deepen our fellowship with Christ (17)

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; (17a)

He is asking that Christ would be more at home in their hearts. He is asking that fellowship with Christ would be deepened.

5. To increase our knowledge of the love of God for us (17-19)

and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, (17b-19a)

He is not asking for God to begin to love them or for them to begin to know anything of God's love because in coming to Christ the love of God for them has been the foundation of it all. He is asking for a greater, deeper, richer knowledge of God's love for them. As someone has said, infinite love cannot be fully known by finite hearts and minds. But we can grow (and will grow throughout eternity) in our understanding of the 'vastness' of God's love!

The Father's Love. This is God's love for every one of his children. This is love for those being

remade in the image of his Son. This love is the greatest love that could be experienced. This love has no kind of 'hate' involved. This love is full. This is the love of delight and of purchase and of promise and of possession and of discipline and of perfection (security). This love won't be spurned. This love never ends (unchanging love). This love sounds like:

God loves you like he loves his own Son, no matter what, fully and forever! – John 17:23; 1 John 4:18; John 16:27; Zephaniah 3:17; Micah 7:18; Luke 11:11-13; Matthew 7:7-11; Matthew 6:25-34

The Dimensions of God's Love for His Children

- **The Breadth of His Love:** How many the Father will love as his children! - Ephesians 2:11-18; Revelation 5:9-12; Revelation 7:9; Colossians 3:11
- **The Length of His Love:** How long the Father has and will love us as his children! - Ephesians 1:4-6; Jeremiah 31:3; Revelation 13:8; Revelation 17:8; Romans 8:38-39
- **The Depth of His Love:** How low the Father has gone to redeem us to be his children! - Ephesians 2:1-8; Romans 3:9-20; Philippians 2:5-11; Romans 5:6-10; Isaiah 53:1-12
- **The Height of His Love:** How great are the blessings given to us by the Father! - Ephesians 1:3; Ephesians 2:6; Ephesians 3:8-12; Ephesians 5:25-30; 1 John 3:1-2; 2 Peter 1:2-4; 1 Corinthians 3:21-23; Romans 4:13; Philippians 3:20-21; John 17:13, 24-25

6. To increase our loving like he loves (19)

that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. (19b)

He is asking for the deeper knowledge and belief in God's love for them so that they will become more like God Himself. To know the love of God for us is to be transformed by it. The ultimate purpose of God's loving us is to cause us to love him and to love others like he does. – Ephesians 5:1-2; John 17:25-26

7. For the glory of God (20-21)

²⁰Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, ²¹to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

He is asking all these things, not for our glory, but for the glory of God. God is able to make us love him and love others in ways we cannot begin to ask for or imagine. The love of God for us and the love of God through us brings glory to God and God alone and will do so forever and ever.

*A child is so unwilling to come into the presence of an angry father! Where, then, does this folly of ours come from? Why are men afraid to have good thoughts of God? They think it is audacity to see God as good, gracious, tender, kind, and loving. I am speaking of the saints. ... If the love of a father will not make a child delight in him, what will? Put this to the test. Ponder the eternal, free, and fruitful love of the Father, and see if your heart isn't stimulated to delight in him. – John Owen, *Communion with the Triune God**