

Love of God Project

Session 4: Forming a Biblical Perspective | Videos 1 - 2

Video Seminar Outline and Questions

Before we begin: Using what you've learned in the previous session, how would you now describe the importance of knowing God's love for you?

Session 4: Video 1

Importance of Knowing God's Love (Ephesians 3:14-21)

- A. Knowing the **Love of God** is important and for every believer.
- B. Jesus as our **example** (Mark 1:11, 9:7):
- C. The **authority** Jesus received (John 3:35, 13:1 & 3):
- D. **Jesus received revelation** (John 5:20):
- E. Jesus had **confidence** in His Father because of His Father's love. (John 11:42, 15:9a):
- F. Jesus' **commandment** to us (John 15:1-8):

Abide in Me:

The KEY- Abide in My Love (John 15:9; 15:20):

Discussion Questions:

1. Please read I John 2:27

1 John 2:27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

What does it mean that the Spirit teaches us to abide? How will this impact your own efforts to grasp the love of God?

2. Have you ever considered John 15:9 as a commandment? Does knowing this is a commandment affect your walk with God? How so?
3. Jesus is our example. Spend time considering what the Gospels teach about Jesus' relationship with His Father. What does this tell you about the relationship God desires to have with you?
4. A child who is secure in his or her parents' love would most likely be more self-confident in life. Can you list some more benefits of being loved?
5. Do you see areas in your life where there is lack because you have not experienced being loved? Do you believe an experiential awareness of God's love for you can change those areas?
6. What do you think abiding in Jesus' love looks like in the life of a believer?

Spiritual Exercise:

1. Begin to pray through the Ephesians 3 prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to give you the power to grasp the love of God.

Ephesians 3:14-21 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, 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; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now 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, to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

2. Please paraphrase, personalize and pray through John 15:9

John 15:9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.

Consider how you might spend time with the Lord that would enable you to abide in His love more.

For additional information, read pages 13-21, 51-77 in God's True Love by David Harwood

Session 4: Video 2

The Apostles' Perspective

- A. John knew Jesus and defined himself by Jesus' love (John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7a and 20a; Matthew 10:30).

- B. Paul personalized Jesus' love for him. (Galatians 5:20).

Commit yourself to pursuing God's love. Pray for yourself and one another using the prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21. Ask the Holy Spirit for the power to grasping Jesus' love.

Discussion Questions

1. Based on what we have studied so far, is knowing the love of God supposed to be foundational in the life of a believer? Why or why not?
2. "Without grasping, we cannot abide...If you can't take hold of it, you are not going to be able to stay there." This statement is a pattern for other areas of spiritual truth. Have you experienced grasping and subsequent abiding in any area of your spiritual life? Describe the experience.
3. The overall pattern of the Ephesians 3 passage is this: Prayer leads to activity of the Spirit, which lead to grasping, which leads to being filled. Have you come to believe that God can enable you to grasp His love as you seek Him for this experience? Why or why not?
4. Have you sought to know the love, approval, and affection of God through means other than Spirit-enabled grasping? Examples might be: through study, through careful obedience.
5. Have you ever experienced the love of God in a subjective manner? If so, describe the experience. If not, are you open to such an experience, why or why not?

6. After hearing this teaching, compare what you have heard with what you wrote on the first page of the outline. Has your understanding of God's love for you changed? If so, how?
7. What is the most important truth you learned in this session?

Spiritual Exercises

1. In Scripture, we see that John is uniquely aware of God's love for him. No other disciple or Apostle describes himself as John does. The tendency might be to think that John experienced a relationship with Jesus which is not available to everyone else. Do you see John's relationship with Jesus as something available to you? Why or why not? Find Scripture which forms your perspective and pray it through.
2. Please paraphrase, personalize and pray through Galatians 2:20b:

Galatians 2:20b - and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

3. Continue to pray through the prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 3:14-21 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, 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; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now 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, to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

For additional information read pages 33-49 in God's True Love by David Harwood.