Series: That You May Know God's Love

The Compelling Love of God

Ephesians 3:14-19

Ephesians 3:14-19

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

15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

Ephesians 3:14-19

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

Ephesians 3:14-19

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; 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,

Ephesians 3:14-19

19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Introduction:

Last week we looked together at this prayer from the Apostle Paul. Our desire is to know more about the love of God.

Introduction:

Last week we considered how the love of God is a Pursuing love.

Introduction:

Today as we prepare to make commitments to share God's love using the right now media tool and we commit to 40 days of fasting and prayer we want to reflect for a few moments on the Compelling aspect of God's love.

In 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 the Apostle Paul declares that the love of Christ controls us.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

¹⁶ Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

The Greek word here for control is "sunecho". This word is translated in English as control (NASB), constrain (KJV), and compel (NIV).

Its definition is to hold fast, to confine, to bind, and to bring under the influence.

Therefore, the love of Jesus in us causes us to no longer live for ourselves. (vs. 15). This love holds us fast, confines us, binds us, and brings us under its control to compel us to live for Christ.

As the love of Jesus grows in us it causes us to make the priorities of Jesus our priorities. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples. His love in us is a compelling love.

Let's consider together a few aspects of God's compelling love.

His love compels us on at least 3 levels.

<u>Each level leads us to the next level.</u>

Here are the 3 levels:

Level 1 - God's love compels us to believe in Jesus

Level 2 - God's love compels us to serve in Jesus kingdom

Level 3 - God's love compels us to share the love of Jesus

Level 1 – God's love compels us to believe in Jesus

Romans 2:4 – It is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance

Romans 2:4

4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

John 3:16 – God's love demonstrated in His giving Jesus compels us to believe in Him to experience eternal life

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

When we trust in Jesus we are made into a new person. We are born again. Now the love of Jesus is in us and begins to compel us to serve

Level 2 – God's love compels us to serve others

Galatians 5:13 – here we see that the love of Jesus leads us to not use of freedom for selfish purposes. We are led to serve one another in this love.

Galatians 5:13

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

John 21:15-17

¹⁵ So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Tend My lambs."

John 21:15-17

16 He *said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Shepherd My sheep."

John 21:15-17

17 He *said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep."

In John 21:15-17 we see Peter's encounter with the resurrected Jesus on the beach. Jesus asks about Peter's love of him 3 times. Each time Peter says he loves Jesus the response of Jesus is for Peter to serve others.

The love for Jesus is demonstrated through serving others.

In Hebrews 10:24 we are told to give consideration to how we can stimulate one another to love and good deeds. Growing in Jesus love leads to growing in good deeds of service to others

Hebrews 10:24

24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Serving others opens the door for us to share the love of Jesus with the ones we are serving.

The love of God also compels us to share His love with others.

Level 3 – God's love compels us to share the love of Jesus with everyone

2 Corinthians 5:11

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

In 2 Corinthians 5:11 we read where Paul said that knowing the fear of the Lord causes him to persuade others to trust Christ. As we grow in God's love we understand how deeply God loves each person.

We know the destiny for those who do not trust in Jesus – eternal separation. God's love breaks our hearts for those who need a relationship with Jesus. Therefore, we share the Gospel of Jesus with others.

2 Corinthians 5:16 tells us that we no longer see people according to the flesh. In other words we do not look at people based upon the barriers that divide people.

We see all people, no matter what they look like, where they come from or even how they act, as a person loved by God who needs to experience the transforming love of God.

Romans 10:13-15

13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

Romans 10:13-15

14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:13-15

15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

Romans 10:13-15 – tells us the reality of the need to share. Whoever will call upon the Lord (seek God's forgiveness by trusting in Jesus) shall be saved (rescued from sin's penalty & power).

They cannot call upon the Lord unless they believe or trust.

They cannot trust in Jesus if they have never heard the story of Jesus.

They cannot hear the story of Jesus unless someone preaches (tells them).

> They cannot tell them unless they are sent.

John 20:21

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

In John 20:21 - Jesus tells us that just as the Father had sent Him He now has sent us. We are Jesus only plan to take His message of love to the people of the world.

Closing Applications

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Is God's love compelling you to trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins?

Are you ready today to trust in Jesus and receive God's love gift of eternal life?

Closing Applications

Is God's love compelling you to serve others?

How does God desire for you to serve others?

What opportunities to serve is He showing you through the church and in the community/world?

Closing Applications

Are you ready for level 3?

Is God's love in you compelling you to share His story of love?

Who around you needs to hear the Gospel story?

Closing Applications

Are you willing to invite these persons to hear the story through the Right Now media tool?

Closing Applications

Are you willing to fast and pray for God to use you and do a transforming work in those with whom you share?

Right Now Love Commitment Day Form

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