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Welcome back. This is our Thursday night Bible study. We're into Ephesians, we're into Revelation, but we've migrated into Ephesians, and we're looking at the last subject on Ephesians 3 tonight.

And it deals with Ephesians 3 verses 14 to 21. Let me read it to you. Paul says, For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.

And he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in the hearts by faith, that he, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, the width, the length, the height, the depth, and to know the love of Christ, which path is knowledge, that ye may might be fulfilled with the fullness of God. Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, generations without end. Amen.

Now, I've begun trying to tell you over the last couple of weeks that this is one of the richest and most significant of all of the Scriptures of the Word of God. It is a passage that is filled with transforming truth. It's one of those key points in the New Testament, one of those vital areas that really tells you how to get information out of your head into your living, physical versus spiritual.

And as we've been looking at this, I think the Spirit of God has been really reinforcing this to us in many ways. I've gotten a lot of comments back from you that tells me that's so. And I was thinking this week as I was, or last two weeks really, as I was mulling over in my mind how you might approach this text again, that we forgot something, what an incredible treasure we have in the Word of God.

Do you guys realize that? It's the only history book that has the truth. These kind of passages, particularly that show us how to really live life to the fullest, are such a legacy from the Holy Spirit that we do what well to remind ourselves of these riches. Psalms 119.

To know you are wiser than our enemies, that you have more understanding than your teachers, that you have more understanding than those ancients who have gone before. To realize that we are informed people in this world, we are ones who have the truth. And what an incredible, wonderful thought that is.

We're the only ones who have the truth, guys. Nobody else has the truth. If you're not one with Christ, if you're not asking Him to be your redemptive Savior, do you realize if you've not done that you have no truth? None.

The condition of truth is Christ in the balance. The only way you have truth, biblical truth, historical truth, real truth, is when you know Christ. Some of you think, oh my gosh, you know what? I'm good.

You know what? I got my ticket. Let's go back to that. I got my ticket, and I know the truth.

Oh, you know what? I'm very frank tonight. That is BS. You have no truth.

Truth comes what? Scripture tells you that. Truth comes from what? Hearing the Word. If you don't hear the Word, you have no truth.

What did I tell you last week? You guys are going to be held to a higher standard. Why? Because you've heard the truth. That's not going to be convenient for a lot of you.

I can tell you that if you study the Word of God, and if you plumb the depths of the Word of God, you're going to get your heart blessed, your bell rung, and your fire lit. What are we talking about? We're talking about the ignition switch of getting your Christian life going. It can't help but happen, and I've never had an occasion to study the Word of God and to really drink it in.

Drink it in. What do we talk about on Tuesday night? Flowing of water, knowledge coming out of the freaking scriptures in Genesis 1. The knowledge of your whole mind begins at the garden. You have four rivers.

You have four hemispheres of your mind. It's all about knowledge. Understanding what we're talking about is understanding how God permeates every aspect of your life, giving you every opportunity to understand the truth, not the knowledge of good and evil, but the truth, and if you don't understand the truth, where are you going? Where are you going? To hell.

That's absolutely right. Thomas Edison said on one occasion, we don't know one millionth of one percent about anything. Thomas Edison, Mark Twain added, but the trouble with the world is not that people know so little, but the things they do know ain't so, because the world has given you the deception of the truth.

When you're born of this world, why are we doing this, guys? Why are we doing this tonight? Because this is the final aspect of understanding who you are. We're going into the application in chapter four of what is the truth of the doctrine of your beginning. It's either real or it's not.

If it's not real, let me tell you this, you should tune out because you're not going to like what's going to come. If it's real to you, then you need to understand what Christ is telling you, and what Christ is telling you is I gave you the truth of everything. Now, from a Mark Twain's point of view, that's a pretty bad thing not to know one millionth of one percent of anything, and the thing that you know ain't so.

It means you have no knowledge about anything. That's what they tell you. Why? Because you don't study the scripture as the truth.

You study it in the perspective of what somebody wants you to understand as the truth. You're not moving to sanctification. You're moving to live a norm, a norm of society, and that norm is nothing but the truth.

Now, we are the informed. We, the people of Christ, the ones that have been, that are moving into sanctification of Christ, we are the informed. You see, we rise above ignorance, and you might laugh at that.

Well, ignorance is everywhere. We rise above misinformation. We are wiser than our enemies.

We are more understanding than our teachers. God has given us the ability to rise above everything in this world as long as we're moving into the order of sanctification that he has provided to us, because we have the treasure of the word of God, which is called the Bible. But you got to listen here.

With privilege, you think about this, with privilege always comes what? You tell your children this all the time. You want it? You got to do what? You got to have more what? Think about it. Responsibility.

So, God's going to hold you more responsible. I told you that your yardstick, your accountability measure is now increased. Why? Because you have now heard the truth, and if you don't understand that responsibility, let me lay it out.

You act in accordance to God's standards, or you don't. If you do, then you're blessed. If you don't, you're judged.

And the judges here are. You see, we arise above ignorance. We rise above misinformation.

We are wiser than our enemies. We are more understanding than our teachers. We are more understanding than the ancients of the past, because why? We have the treasures of the word of God, because now we can talk about the truth.

The standards that you live by have now just been elevated. But listen to this, with privilege comes what? Responsibility. And it's not enough to gargle the word of God on a Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday that we do, and spit it out as you get your car to go home, whatever that might be.

You need to drink it in. That's what Scripture says. You need to absorb this.

You need to drink it. You need to live it. You need to understand it.

You need to dwell in it. It ought to change your life. God has given us his revelation.

It is an estimated privilege to do this. It is an unsearchable treasure. Look at Ephesians 1. We've already studied this, but we're closing out Ephesians 3. Why? Because we're looking at all of the chapters 1, 2, and 3 tonight.

This seems to be a major theme in Ephesians. It says in verse 8 that God has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known unto us the mystery of his will. You cannot know his will if you're not in the Scriptures.

There's absolutely no way to do it. What an incredible thing this is. I mean, he's giving you the roadmap.

All we have to do is just do it. But if we don't want to do it, you know what? And then we complain, oh, so what? You know, it didn't happen? Oh, well, you chose it not to happen. What an incredible thing that God should make known to us the mystery of his will.

He just did. This whole three chapters is his mystery. That he, as Jesus said, should reveal these things to babes and hide them from the eyes of the world.

He's given us the ability to understand, and the cabal, he says, you can't understand. The elite, you can't understand. He's given it to us.

We don't act upon it. We have no basis of changing this historical measure because, you know what? We don't even concern ourselves with the fact that he gave us the ability to do it. We just let things go and allow things to prosper around us.

And we say, oh, it was me. And we're not one iota concerned about this. Not one.

Let me just ask the question. In three weeks time now, since we've talked about it, what have you done differently to change this environment? You done anything? If you've not done anything, then you're still conforming to that in this world. You're not conforming to the strength that's given to you by God in your sanctification.

Think about it. And I'm looking at stark faces here. Like, oh my gosh, I haven't done anything.

That's absolutely probably true. You've heard me say it. You probably studied it, but you haven't done anything about it.

Chapter one, verse 17. Paul prays that we would have what? The spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him that the eyes of our understanding would be enlightened. That we would know what it is the hope of his calling, what is the riches of his glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is exceedingly great in the power toward us who believe.

We have this tremendous knowledge. Oh, do we have knowledge? Do you have knowledge at all? Do you have the wisdom? Are you studying? Are you applying it? Do you give this Holy Spirit the ability to rule your life? That's what knowledge is. You can go to school and read all the documents you want and think you have knowledge, but you have nothing that pertains to what? The truth.

Chapter three. You have it again. Verse eight.

Paul says that God has called him to be used as a preacher to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things by Jesus Christ. Then you go to verse 11. It says that we literally know, we literally know the eternal purpose which God proposed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Beloved, you hold in your hand in that little book that you have the Holy Bible, the word of God, the greatest, most incredible gift that God could ever give man. And it's up to you. It's not up to me.

It's up to you to drink it, to use it, to make it a part of your life, to make it a part of every element of your thinking. Remember what did I say last week or two weeks ago? Sorry. Before you make a decision, you should do what? Ask the Holy Spirit what you should be doing.

Why? Because you should want to conform every element, every action of your life in accordance to what the Holy Spirit directs you in soul relationship to the word of God. Jeremiah says this, chapter 15, in verse 16 of his great prophecy, thy words were found. I did eat them and the word was unto me, the joy and rejoicing in my heart, for I am called by thy name.

Remember, we're called as Christ because why? We need to put the armor of Christ. We need to be Christ. We need to be like Christ.

Okay. For I'm called by thy name, O Lord of hosts, because I'm called by you because I know you because we have the intimacy together. Your word is my food, my joy, and my rejoicing.

Let's look at Job 23, verse 12. Job says, I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary for food. In Psalms 1, the righteous man is described in this way, by his light is in the law of God and in his law doth he meditate.

What? Day and night. Psalms 119 and 167. My soul hath kept thy testimonies.

I love them exceedingly, said David. And he said in the 19 Psalms, more to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold and sweeter also than honey and honey. What he's saying is my relationship in God is more important than anything.

Doesn't matter. Gold, silver, honeycomb, food, whatever. What is your relationship? God has given us his word and his people.

God has given us this tremendous resource, the Bible, tremendous sweet and rich treasure that is to be taken in and feasted upon. And as we have been studying in Ephesians, we must have been reminded of what it is. All of these things that God has given us are reinforced, revealed, impressed upon us by the Apostle Paul in here in verse 14 to 21 in Ephesians 3, 14 to 21.

Having given us great truth, he prays, he prays, after I've given you all these truths, what he prays that we would drink it, not garble it, that we would absorb it, not put it off, that we would really operate on our knowledge of what the scriptures tell us is the truth. Stop it. Self-evaluation.

Can you even explain the truth? Let's go to the basics. Can you even explain the truth? If you can't explain the truth, how can you live it? What was your study? Now, I have told you before, I just reinforced it again by saying this. The greatest problem in the ministry as I see it, the most anxiety, the greatest heartache comes when people live lives they don't match what they know.

I've studied the Bible. I got the Bible. Why in the hell are you living the life you're living then? And I didn't cuss.

Why in the hell, downward, are you living the life that you're living? You know what? That's a true heartache for all teachers that try to get us to the point of understanding God's word. It's a heartache for me. I pray for you guys every day, for more things than not.

And you know what? I try to separate everything, but it all gets blended and whatever. If you were truth, if you were really truth seekers, none of this would have ever happened. None of it.

Because why we're doing this not based upon riches, because you've already got the riches. It's already told you that in Ephesians 1 and 3. You've got everything heaven's got to offer. It's because of self-ego and wanting to make something of yourself more than what you really so far.

You know, we're nothing. We're nothing. But you want to be something, and therefore you run your mouth to do whatever you want to do in the auspices of trying to overcome what Christ is giving to you.

And you have no clue what you're thinking about in this story. We ought to be able to take advantage of this knowledge and make it part of our life. And here's how the way it happens.

And we've got to look back to Ephesians 3.14 and 21. And it tells us this is how to get your Christianity functioning. This is how to make the resource and the power and make it operative.

We're talking about igniting the fuel. And we said there are five essential steps. The inner strength, the indwelling of Christ, the incomprehensible love, the infinite fullness, and the internal power.

And Paul prays that we could have all of these things that are connected, and I've told you, from the word Greek called hinnah, which means in order that you do one to connect the other, to connect the other, to connect the other. It doesn't happen any other way. Do this in order that this may happen, in order that this may have, in order that this may happen, and so goes.

Now, as we look at these five things, we're going to see how a Christian really gets to the place where he functions. This is the end game here, guys, tonight. You've got to take away how you function tonight, because next week we're going to get into how you operate, not how you function, how you apply, how you get to going on all eight cylinders.

We've been calling this the Christian ignition. This is the enlightenment of your whole salvation process. First of all, if we're going to really actualize all of this great truth, if we're going to take the treasure of the Word of God and the treasure of the indwelling spirit of Christ, and if we're going to make something out of this, then it begins with inner strength.

We must be strengthened by his Spirit in the inner man. That's in verse 16. Paul begins by saying that he prays that we would be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.

That's got to be changing in the inner man. You have got to change. We've got to allow the Spirit to have control.

Now, your inner man will be strengthened when the Holy Spirit has control of it. When you yield to him, when you no longer rule by yourself, your ego self goes out the window. When you no longer do just what you want, but where you learn moment by moment, step by step, one day at a time, to yield to the control of the Holy Spirit.

That's not going to happen overnight. What did God say? Strive, strive to be like me. Now, I frankly don't believe that the world has any way in which it can help somebody in the inner man.

I've said this, I've said this many times. There's no unconditional love in this world. There's nothing that this world offers you other than sin.

That's it. I don't really see it. They can gloss things over.

They can give you sort of temporary relief from a problem. But when you're dealing with the heart, and who's in the heart? God is in the heart. His law is in the heart.

When you're dealing with the heart, and the soul, and the Spirit, your three things of life, and the inner man of a person, the world really doesn't have any answers. It can't offer you any application. This is reinforced in a book that has come out, and it's publicized by Random House.

It's a secular book written by Martin Gross. It's entitled Psychology Society, and in this book, he attempts to debunk the whole psychological, psychiatric, and psychoanalytical method as just a whole lot of nothing. In fact, his point in this book is that it's just one way for a lot of people to make a lot of money.

Very interesting, by the way. He says if you want to find out whether or not people are in it for the money, he uses the example of a certain psychiatric hospital full of psychological or physiological ill people, supposedly who are real mental cases. This particular hospital, located in the Midwest, has three people available to counsel all of the inmates in the hospital.

But when you look at Beverly Hills, there's over 300 psychiatrists. There's no money in mental hospital, but there's a lot of money in Beverly Hills. Psychiatrists, psychologists are all about the money.

In fact, Billy Graham said this. In that area, there's so many people with psychological problems that it's called the mental block. But I think that we're all aware of the difficulty with this whole so-called science.

Anyway, Gross points out the fact that it just doesn't have any answers. I've said that a lot. How can a psychiatrist, not knowing the Bible, give you information to heal you that's not biblically sound? It's a hoax.

And I tell you, there's probably a lot of you that go see them or have seen them and paid a lot of money to see them. Gross points out the fact that it doesn't have any, he doesn't, this whole science has no answer. His conclusion after all this, and he goes into it from every conceivable angle, hundreds and hundreds of pages in his book, his conclusion after all of this, and oh, by the way, there are medical people who are saying this book is the most significant book on psychological written in years.

The conclusion of all this is that people are neurotic. Duh. They're always neurotic.

Duh. There always will be neurotic. Duh.

Why? Because you can't change something that you are in. Just don't charge them money for being neurotic. That's how you make all your money.

Because you can't get them out of the bases of their psychological problems because it's spiritually in nature and you're dealing with a physical phenomenon and all you're trying to do is to make money. We have some psychologists in this group. So let me just ask one question.

Who in the world of psychology professionals has ever, ever killed anybody? Don't have to ask, just take that in your own brain because none of you have done it. You were given an education to make money on deprived people. You can't change them.

I've said this over and over again. The only one that can change a person is the Holy Spirit. People can't change them.

So all of this frigging medical industry out there who strives to get access to your brain to tell you what you're doing is just taking your money. There's not one thing you can do about it. And in essence, we should say Christians, well, we don't believe that human wisdom can do anything at all about internal problems.

Oh my gosh. But we do believe the Holy Spirit can, right? The only, the only presence in our whole lifetime that can deal with us individually, collectively is the Holy Spirit. No person in mankind can change you or change this world or change society at large.

And it's, if there's to be a change, it's got to be a change in the inner man. Because what drives you? Oh, you have one or two spirits. Think about this.

You got, you have an inner man. You either have the devil or you have Christ. So where are you at? Your change can only be from one direction.

No physical man can change you. Oh, wives, think about your husband. I married this guy because I really, really liked him and I'll change it.

Wrong. Can't do it. It's got to be the strengthening of the inner man through the Holy Spirit that this is all done.

And how do you do that? The only way you can do it is to get into the Word. Every time you yield to the Spirit as a decision of your life, we talked about last week or two weeks ago. Every time you make a decision, the Holy Spirit needs to be consulted first.

Every time you yield to the Spirit as a decision in your life, you strengthen the muscle of your inner man a little more and a little more and a little more. And as you continue to do that, your inner man gets stronger and stronger and stronger. And it's easier than to say yes to the Spirit and no to sin.

There's no other way. I don't care how neurotic you are. There's still no other way.

If a neurotic person doesn't want to get in tune with the Spirit, they're not going to get healed. I don't care what any physical person tells them to do. And those of you who are psychiatrists or psychologists or physiologists, you better find another work because there's fixing to come a time that this world is going to be turned upside down.

And your input is nothing more than sin itself. I've always said spirituality is a process of decreasing the frequency of sin. We've already talked about this.

And sin decreases as you yield to the Spirit. It's like a teeter-totter. The more you get of this Holy Spirit, the less in sin you get.

The less in the Holy Spirit, the more sin you have. That is your equilibrium. There's nothing more than that.

Because when you strengthen the inner man and it becomes easier to say yes to the Holy Spirit, it becomes easier to say no to sin. So that's where it all begins, guys. Strengthening the inner man by the Spirit as you yield to him one day at a time.

That leads secondly into the indwelling of Christ. And we talked about this a couple of weeks ago. And we saw in our last couple of studies together that when you yield to the Holy Spirit, he controls your life.

Then Christ does what? He settles down in your life and becomes at home. Instead of trying to clean up after you, Christ settles down and becomes at home in your heart by faith. Christ wants to be at home in us.

He wants to settle down. He wants to have a clean life. Oh my gosh.

Every time we sin, it infects Christ. One that he doesn't have to be running around cleaning and sweeping and chastening and chastening and exhorting and so forth to clean you. Guys, I know you hate to clean the bathrooms.

I just got that because I hate it. It's the most worst thing in my life. Though my wife says I need to do it, so I do.

But I'm telling you this. Think of it times 10. That's what Christ has to do.

Every day, he has to deal with it. And instead of importing to you the blessings and his ability to move you, he's cleaning your toilet. Think about it.

That's what he's doing. He says, I want you. I got to stay with you, but I can't live in this sin hole.

So I got to clean your toilet base. Think about it. It's amazing, guys, how we have not have a clue what really this life's about.

The blessed Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior, the Messiah, God himself in human flesh wants to live within the believer in fullness. He doesn't want to give you a glass that's half full. But if he can't work to get you full, what is it? Why? It's because he's cleaning your toilet, your cesspool of sin, which you do.

He's there because you're a Christian. He wants to fill you. He wants to permeate you.

He wants to dominate you so that in 2 Corinthians becomes a reality. You are changed into his very image. When you get to that point, you have so much power.

You don't even believe it. You can't comprehend it. So that Ephesians 4 becomes a reality, that you come to the full measure of the statue of Christ.

In other words, Christ likeness, Christ permeating every part, every fiber, every ounce of your being with his wonderful person and presence. So as you yield to the Spirit of God, the Spirit of God controls your life. And as your life is under his control, it is being directed.

It is being guided. It is being cleansed. It is being led.

And there Christ can settle down and be at home. You should think, oh my God, Christ, I just want you on the couch of my heart. Just lay down and rest.

I got it. I got it. Here it is.

I got it. Just lay down and rest. And oh, by the way, every time you think of a good thing, just give it to him.

Because you're doing all the right stuff. You consent. Think about this.

You consent to either be yielded totally to the Lordship of Christ or you consent to work on a fence that puts you in the camp of Satan. There's no in between. Now, when that happens, it leads to a third purpose.

When Christ is in total control, it leads to a third purpose that we see in verse 17, in the middle of verse 17. In order that ye may be rooted and grounded in love. Oh my gosh, this is a subject we should spend weeks upon.

Why? Because the beginning, the beginning of everything in your life and everything you do has to be rooted in love. Let me just ask a question. How many of you have been upset today? How many were you upset today? On what cause? On what cause? Unless it was righteous indignation, you have no reason to be upset.

Zero. Because why? God said you got to love everybody like I love them. And did Christ ever give any, any, any unwilling approach to anybody? No.

If you're going to be like Christ, you got to love like Christ. The beginning then of really a love life is where, which everybody really wants. It's only the, it's the only way to be happy and it's to be filled with love.

You have to give love to get love. That's the law of give and take. Oh, what do you get when you get upset? When you get angry, when you get mad, when you get hatred, what do you get? You get what you So you guys need to really think about your life as to how you can conform yourself to exactly the love that Christ gave you to operate in this spiritual life.

Hate doesn't do anything but tear you to complete pieces. Everybody wants a love life. And a love life springs out of communication of a life by the greatest lover in the universe, the Lord Jesus Christ himself.

When Christ fills us, love fills us. The scripture says Christ is love. If we have Christ in our life, he fills us with love.

What constitutes Christ not being able to fill us up of love is your ego. Look what it says in verse 17. When Christ dwells in our hearts, that is when he settles down and is at home in our hearts.

We are rooted and grounded in love. Now that's talking about the foundation, the basis, the root system. That's all how it starts.

You can't have a love experience. You can't have a love life, excuse me, unless you have love as a foundation, love as a rock bed. The roots of your soul being has to be in love.

And so he says, as Christ fills your heart, loves rules. Love is the foundation. Love is the bottom line.

Love is that which everything else is built upon. Now you can go to, according to Romans 5.5, that when we are saved, it says the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. This moment, this absolutely moment that we're saved, God's love comes in us.

His love is there. And it's expected that we, what? Love. It's the most normal thing in the world for a Christian to live a love life.

In fact, Paul wrote in Thessalonians and said, nobody needs to teach you how to love. You are taught of God to love one another. Oh boy, that stings because we think we know how to love.

Oh my gosh. You're taught of God to love. That's the basic of Christianity.

There shouldn't be any question about that in your life. Think about that. Should not be a question of your love of Christ to others in your life.

None. And let me just say this. That's the normal of Christianity.

That's not over and above. That's the normal of Christianity. That's just living out the Christian life.

That's just doing what is natural. And as obviously Peter says it, that you, when you were born again, were born again unto unframed love of the brethren. In other words, you have no reason to hate regardless of what might come upon you as it relates to a fellow Christian.

Let me stop here. I'm on it. Because I got to say this.

I just got to say it. A fellow Christian is your husband or wife. A fellow Christian is your children.

And I'm not going to get into the statistics of the majority of Christian families who have a problem with this. Now let me say it this way. If you don't experience a total life of love, it is not because it isn't there.

It's because you have never allowed it to function. You've never given up yourself to God's love. Oh, and how come then you become a Christian? I'll think about that a moment.

Which is easier to breathe or hold your breath? Well, you have been breathing all day long and never thought about it. You don't get up in the morning and say, now I've got to breathe. Keep breathing or you'll die.

Keep breathing or you'll die. Keep breathing. Don't stop.

Keep it. Your breath has nothing has to do anything because the pressure, the atmosphere around you exerts its pressure on your lungs and forces you to breathe. It's very difficult to hold your breath.

You try it for a long time and you will explode. It's just that difficult. You're fighting against the natural.

When you become a Christian, the most natural thing in this world is this. The love of God is shed abroad in your heart. And we fight it all day long.

On everything we do, we fight it. It should permeate you. It should exude from you.

It should touch everybody around you. It should be a very way of life. But some people are holding their breath and your own self-will holds your breath, resisting the love of God in selfish pride.

Love is the most normal thing for a Christian to do. You can't be a Christian if you're not loving to everybody around you. It doesn't work that way.

The spirit of God comes into your life. He fills your life with love. He begins to rule your life.

You yield to him. Christ settles down. He's at home.

His love permeates. And as it permeates your life, you should be characterized thirdly by incomprehensible love. And it should start by being the very root and the very foundation of your life, the very basis of your life.

Let me tell you this. You have no Christian life unless you have love. Now, I'm not talking about physical love.

I'm talking about love for the saints. You cannot have a spiritual life. You cannot be safe and not have a spiritual component of love in your life.

You can't do it. Then he goes on to a second element of it. Not only is it the foundation, but if you notice in verse 18, he says, you may be able to comprehend this love.

Oh, now you can understand it. I've given it to you. You don't rationalize with it.

But now, because you've allowed the Holy Spirit to take charge and it dwells in you, strengthening your man, and Christ is able to be home, and it gives you incomprehensible love, you now can understand it. You may be able to comprehend this love. Now, in the Greek word, the verb comprehend is the compound verb.

This is a Greek word labano, which means to receive something. Oh my gosh, this goes back to the law of giving and receiving. Then there is another word, which is an intense verb, meaning to seize or to grasp for your own.

Or it's like you. Somebody else was really possessive. You say they're grasping and they're possessive of something.

That's the verb. That's what's used here in this text. You not only have a life that is built on love, but you have a life that possesses love as a personal possession.

You literally seize it. You make it your own as a way of living. Christ does not settle down in your life as a whole to give you every blessing that he can give you if you do not seize his love.

And so, it is then that we are not only have a foundation of love when Christ fills our life, but we seize his love, grasping every opportunity to love as a personal treasure, a personal possession. You can't grasp God's love if you don't give it. You guys understanding this? You can't sit and be idle.

It is a most desired thing, something you want to seize, something you want to grasp, something you want to cling to. Why? Because it's the basis of life. Further, he says at the end of this little section and beginning in verse 19, that we can know the love of Christ, which path is knowledge.

Oh my gosh, his love permeates everything to the point you can't comprehend it. It surpasses anything of human knowledge, Grace. But we limit it by only that which we can what? Understand.

We don't give Christ the opportunity to explode in us. We want to confine it. We want to control it.

We want to manage it in our way instead of letting God just absolutely take and explode through us every blessing that we have. Do you realize how much power that is? So, it is the foundation of our life. It is that which we seize for every moment in our life and is that which we experience.

The knowledge here being the knowledge of experience. To live a life built on love, to live a life that grasps every possibility of love in every situation, to live a life that comprehends love is only possible, get this guys, when you've been filled with the fullness of the Spirit of God. Doesn't happen unless you let go.

The Spirit of God causes Christ to be at home and exude in every dimension of your life the fullness of his love. So, if he claimed to be a Christian, but you don't have love as the root and the ground of your life, if you don't in every situation seize love as an expression for that situation, and if you don't understand and comprehend and know love exponentially, then the problem is not that the people around you who are giving you trouble. The problem is clear back in verse 16.

You have never yet yielded the control of your life to the Holy Spirit. You get that? Marriages, oh my gosh. Think how many marriages this would go.

You just understand this one component. Any relationship, Galatians 5.22, and then Christ will be home and his love will permeate every aspect of your life. If you're home and your relationship at home, husband and wife, is not a relationship of love.

It isn't the fact that you can't get along because you have personal conflict. It isn't a problem of personality at all. That's human.

That's physical world. That is not spiritual. I'm not compatible with this guy anymore.

I want a divorce because we can't get along. In the Bible, you're commanded to love every believer equally. Oh, what does that mean? How much do you love yourself? If you love yourself, you got to love your people around you just the same.

Now, if you can't get that kind of love, at least for your wife, it's not a problem of incompatibility. It's a problem of inequity and selfishness. Not only for your wife, for every person that you have a relationship with.

People says, well, I just don't love him anymore. Well, that's okay, I guess. I've already gone through one of those.

I won't do it again because now I know the difference. Well, then you're in an act of disobedience. And by the way, you just love each other just with agape love, just Bible love.

You'd love everybody like God loves you. And believe me, when you do that, you'll be fine with it. If you love people just like that, you don't even need much romance in that situation.

Why? Because if you love like God loves you, romance will come. You don't have to try to find it. We missed the point, guys.

We so missed the point. The absolute love is the presence of sin. You get it? The law of duality.

You either love or you sin. How's that for you? You get no choice. You have one or the other.

The absolute love is the presence of iniquity. The absolute love means you're not walking in the spirit or the partner's not walking in the spirit. You say, well, boy, I'll tell you one thing I've loved so long and look at the way I've been treated.

Oh my gosh. How selfish could you be? That which you give is what you're going to receive. Yeah, well, so to God.

And look at the way he's been treated. Has it affected his love? Oh, you would bring that up? You know, I'm just, I'm trying to teach you and show you there's only one way to live and that's to live with love. That's only one way to live.

To live filled with love, to be a forgiving, kind, tender-hearted, loving, gracious, merciful, gentle person. It's the only way to live. Fruits of the spirit.

1 Corinthians. The only way to have that is to have Christ permeating your life in his lordship and his love because the spirit is in control. Now you can say, oh, the spirit's not in control of my life.

Well, then you need to figure out why in the world you're not saved. Because the condition of Christianity is a spiritual life. Ticket to home and no way to live.

The only way to have that is to have Christ permeating your life with his lordship and his love because the spirit is in control. The only way to live is to have that ground and that root of love and then to live every situation, seizing love in that situation, experiencing love. And if you don't have it, you've missed the point.

Right at the basis, you've missed the point. The bottom line of Christian life, we are to be creatures of love. You require something to worship.

Worship is love. Think about it. Regardless, if you're not worshipping Christ, you're worshipping something else.

And the whole basis of the worship is love. So you can't tell me that you don't understand what this is all about. You choose not to have Christ's worship versus your worship.

Jesus great message to his apostles. The first thing he said the night in which he met them before he was betrayed. Remember this? Remember the story? The first thing he said is this.

I want you to love each other. Why? Because they were bickering about who is going to be the best disciple. He says, guys, can't you just love one another like I love you? It doesn't matter who's great or what.

But you're going to bring this personal, physical world stuff into my spiritual setting. And I've got to deal with you because you cannot listen. That's what he's telling them.

And then in the 13th chapter of First Corinthians, he says this. Let me tell you something. You could speak with the tongues of men and angels, and if you don't have love, you're sounding brass as a tinkling cymbal.

In other words, your words are falling on nothing but death ears. Then he said, I don't care if you have the gift of prophecy. Everybody hear this? I don't care if you have the gift of faith and you can remove mountains if you don't have love.

He says you are what? You're nothing. Listen, something minus love equals nothing. I'll tell you something else.

Everything minus love equals nothing. Now let me give you one more point. You minus love equals what? Nothing.

Absolutely nothing. And do you want to know that all of the all there is in the Bible and everything that is in the Bible can in terms of what God wants us of us can be summed up in one Love the Lord, your God with all your heart, soul, mind, strength, and your what? Neighbor as yourself. That's the whole law right there.

So Romans 13. The apostle Paul says this in verse 8 of Romans 13. Oh no man anything but to love one another for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

The law says thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, thou shalt not covet, but all of that can be summed up in this. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. I mean if you love your neighbor you're not going to kill them.

If you love your neighbor you're not going to covet what he's got. And if you love your neighbor you're not going to bear a lie against him, false witness. If you love your neighbor you're not going to steal what he has.

You see the whole law is just about love. Everything about the Bible is just about love. The ten commandments are love.

Not making any graven image means you love God too much to do that and dishonor him. Not taking his name in means you love him too much to dishonor him. And all the ten commandments are a statement of principles that exhibit love.

They are all that is it. That's it. That's all there is.

Love is a way of life. Christians are to live in love. That's why the middle of this whole concept in Ephesians 3 is love.

Everything in Ephesians 3 is surrounded by God's love that you need to do. You can't accomplish the application of his principles in Ephesians 1 to 3 unless you have the love that he's given you. There's no compromise here.

God is trying to get us to the place where we can form in a life of love. People love each other. If you don't love people, I'm not going to get really mad at you.

That doesn't make it. And I can't talk to you and give you passionate verse, but the point is this. There's only one way to love and that's to have Christ fill your life with his love.

That will never happen till you strengthen the inner man. That will never happen till you yield to the spirit. I want you to pay attention to this, guys, because if you have relationship problems in this, this is the formula to correct it.

Let me repeat that. This will never happen till the spirit strengthens the inner man. Not you, the spirit.

How do you get the spirit to strengthen the inner man? By getting in his Word. That will never happen till you yield to the spirit. What's yielding mean? It means allowing the spirit to control your life.

And you're going to yield to the spirit only when you're filled with the Word of God and the Word of God has so filled you that every word of the spirit is there by which to control you. No fence walking, one side or the other. Ephesians 5.2, it says this, like Paul is saying, and we'll see it later as we study it, walk in love, walk in love your daily conduct and love as Christ also has loved us and hath given himself for us in offering in a sacrifice to God.

What kind of love? The kind of love that gives yourself as a sacrifice. That's always the way in the Bible. I'm just reinforcing what it seen so many times.

Biblical love is an act of sacrifice, unselfishness. That's the kind of love God's after. God says, I give you all of my blessings throughout heaven, Ephesians 1.3. But you have to be like Christ.

If I give you this, I want you to be like Christ. And if you're not like Christ, how are you going to get the blessings? God wants us to live in love. And it's the only way to be happy.

It doesn't do any good to be bitter and angry and hateful and resentful. You need to learn to love. And if you're having a tough time with it, then back up to the beginning, get back into the word of God, yield to the spirit of God, let him have control of your life so that Christ can settle down and fill your life with his love.

And by the way, this love is available to everybody. Look at verse 18, You may be able to comprehend with all the saints, not one individual, but all the saints. You say, well, I don't.

My temperament would never permit it. Yeah, everybody has this available, all saints. It's available to everybody.

You accept it or you don't. You can't put it on anybody but yourself. You either want it or you don't.

Love may take different forms and it may express itself different ways to different people. But love is something that can be comprehended that is seized and personally possessed by all the saints. It's for you.

It's for me. God wants all of us to know that love. It's not, it's not limited to any type of people.

It's there. It's made available. And we could spend time going all over the Bible to show this.

And we've talked about this many times. I can do it again, but I think you understand it by now. But let me add one more point.

You'll never find it anywhere. Worldly, you'll never find it anywhere aside from your relationship with Christ called Christianity. You think you love somebody? You don't even know what love is unless you love them from the aspect of your Christian walk with Christ.

That's the only true love. Every kind of love that's not that way is superficial. It's of the world.

It's of the Lucifer system. Now look at verse 19. This love path is knowledge, the love of Christ.

Now notice this. It is not love for Christ. It is the love, what? Of Christ.

It's the very same love that Christ had. That's what Christians have. That's the reason why you shouldn't have difficulty in your physical life.

If you're living your spiritual componentry of your Christianity, you're going to love of Christ to everybody. It's the very same love that Christ had. And I'm going to say, isn't that amazing that Christ could love us so much that he gave us his love to love others so that he could bless us with all of his blessings in heaven? Oh my gosh.

What in the world are you waiting on? You know, in verse 14, 15, and 16, there's John's gospel. He has Christ leaving his peace and his joy and his supply and his power. He has all of the legacy of Christ.

And one of the things that Christ left was his love. I can literally love with his love. That's incredible.

Now, Christians, we fight a lot. Oh my gosh. Do we ever fight? You know, we're just think of love as an emotional thing.

And, you know, we say, well, I can stand that. I can't stand that person, but I love them in the Lord. You know what? That is so full of crap.

We have a hard time. We've just got some kind of quasi-spiritual love. But the thing that is the thing is that Christ wants us to love with his love.

Do you get that? You can't love somebody unless you love them with Christ's love. That's superficial love. He wants us to love people the same way he loved them, sacrificially, selfishly, givingly, offering ourselves up for their behalf and their needs.

But that only comes when we're controlled by the Holy Spirit. It can't happen any other way. It's the love of Christ.

The love of Christ passes knowledge. There's no way human beings can ever know that apart from Christ. The world doesn't have that kind of love.

I believe that there is any husband or wife that ought to love each other. They're Christians because I don't think the world could ever begin to comprehend the love available to us. Listen, it can be expressed in every human relationship.

If there's ever a family whose brothers and sisters and moms and dads and kids ought to get along and have love, it's the Christian family. We have a love that passes knowledge that is unavailable to the world. Christians only get it.

You know, the world's love says this. You're nice. You're a nice object.

Oh, yeah, I got that. I chose to love you. I'm attracted to you.

God's love says this. I love my nature. You exist so you get it.

The world's love says I love you until I find something that looks better. God's love says this. You look so perfect in Jesus Christ.

I'll love you forever. The world's love says this. I'll love you till you offend me.

God's love says I'll love you in spite of the fact that you never stop offending me. That's the kind of love we bring to a relationship. Any human relationship.

That's the kind of love we should bring that the world doesn't know anything about. They have no clue what that love is. The world loves for what it can get, and we should love for what we can get.

And what a privilege to have this love that passes knowledge. It's like everything else we have. You know, when the world's falling apart and we're getting a piece that passes understanding, Philippians 4, and the world is looking for meaningful relationships, and we have a love that passes understanding.

It's so unbelievable. It's sad to say, you know, you look at Christianity and no wonder the Lord Jesus was breathed. No wonder, I mean, that night in John 13 when the disciples were fighting and hassling and arguing about who was going to be the greatest in the kingdom, and he gives them a lesson on love and says, look, would you just love each other? Would you not try to be seeking your own things and your own prominence? And he wrote later on, does the apostle Paul to the Philippian church, and he's so upset because they're fighting and wrangling and their contention there, and some women have stirred up some problems, and he says, I just want one thing, please.

Would you have the same love one for another? Let each of you look not on your own things, but on the things of others. Oh, that's how we're supposed to look at or not to live on what we see of ourselves. We're supposed to live on what others need that we can get.

But each is seeing others better than themselves. Would you try to be like Christ, who thought it not something to hold and to be equal with God, but made himself a servant? That's what Christ did. Would you try to get that kind of humility? There'll never be love until there's humility.

Never, ever. And humility is one of the things born of what? The Holy Spirit. You can't get it any other way, because humans in the world do not have any humility at all.

The only humility this world has to offer is from Christ's people. So he says, look, if you have the inner strength of the Holy Spirit, then you have the indwelling Christ who's at home. You have incomprehensible love as a foundation for living and something you grasp for in every situation, and it's something you experience and understand that the world will never know.

Guys, I mean it. Jesus said in John 13, we ought to be able to knock the world right off its feet with our love. We really should.

Another thought here in verse 18, he says, he sort of tries to describe this, but it's a little tough. What is the breadth, the length, the depth, and the height of this love? This is a different realm, guys. You've moved yourself out of the first level of the physical realm to the second level of the physical realm, getting close to heaven.

He says, we are able to grab this love in its fullness. It's not complete, incomplete. I mean, it's up and it's down and it's over there and it's over here.

He's trying to give this thing almost a universal, quantitative description. The love extends in all directions. One dear old saint of God said, yes, and he said the breadth and length and depth and height that's illustrated by the cross, which is the symbol of love.

The upper arm points up, the lower arm points down, the crossing arms point and extend their way all around the world to embrace it. And such is the love of God. God's love for us is as big as his whole universe.

Jerome said that the love of Christ reaches up to the holy angels and it reaches down to those in hell. Its length covers the man on the upper side and its breadth reaches those drifting away on the evil path. But I want to say to this, I want to interpret this way based on Ephesians.

What is the breadth of his love? How broad is it? How broad is the love of Jesus Christ? Chapter two, verse 11. And thought his love is so broad enough to take the Gentiles who were called uncircumcision and to bring them together, those who were afar off. And in verse 13, I make them near by the blood of Christ to take Jews and Gentiles and make them one.

Verse 14. And break down the middle of wall, petition and abonish the unity and make one new man reconcile Jew and Gentile into God. It's broad enough to catch the Jew and the Gentile who are at the apostle ends of the world and bring them together.

So how long is this love? What is the length? Chapter one, Ephesians, verse four. It begins when he chose us in him. When? Think about it before the foundation of the world.

This love was then. You weren't even here. He will show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness towards us through Christ Jesus.

How long is this love? From eternity past to eternity future. No time delay. Guys, I'm running out of time.

I'm just going to end it here. Chapter three, verses 14 through 21. Is a build upon prayer that Paul offers.

That is provides us full life eternity on this earth. When you accomplish one step, you're able to go to the next step. You're able to go to the next step and able to go to the next step.

If you don't start with step one, you're not going to get there. So we have to come to a knowledge base individually that understands that God's principles have been set in place for us to understand. And he's given us the roadmap of how to get there.

And in that roadmap requires action, which we're going to take up in Ephesians four next time. So let's pray. Father, thank you for this evening.

Thank you for opening our hearts to your truth. Father, let us understand that the love we feel, unless it comes from you, is superficial love that will never last in whatever we're trying to do. God, give us the understanding and wisdom of your truth.

Give us the ability to not only comprehend it, but to apply it to our lives. Mold us in our minds to prepare us in understanding your rules of engagement. How do we start this engine of Christianity so that we can move into next week, beginning in chapter four, to completely understand the application of applying your rules of engagement, lighting this engine into our lives so that we can live our lives in accordance to what your principles tell us to do.

And we ask all these things in the moment.