



SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2024

Sermon Title: Pilgrimage – Knowing the love of God

Bible Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

Preacher: Ps Sam Toms

Sermon Summary: Unity in Christ – Knowing the Love of God

The Apostle Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus centres on unity and the transformative power of Christ's love. Ephesus was a highly multicultural and divisive society, much like our modern context, and Paul's message focuses on bringing together diverse groups—Jews and Gentiles—through the unifying love of Christ.

Paul emphasizes that unity is grounded in the immeasurable love of God, which can only be truly experienced in the context of trust. Love becomes the foundation for boldness, courage, and transformation. Using the metaphor of an infinite ocean, Paul invites believers to explore God's love in its height, depth, length, and breadth.

Paul's prayer highlights several truths:

Source of Strength: God's glorious riches empower believers through His Spirit to live boldly for Him (Ephesians 3:16).

Faith and Trust: Faith is trusting in Jesus' identity and resurrection, removing fear and boundaries to fully experience God's love (Ephesians 3:17).

Established in Love: Love is the core of the Gospel, producing the courage to act selflessly and pursue unity (Ephesians 3:17-18).

Empowered by Love: Grasping God's love leads to a life filled with His fullness and the ability to live transformed lives (Ephesians 3:19).

Paul concludes with a doxology, celebrating God's ability to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine, all within the context of His infinite love (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Sermon Study Guide: Unity in Christ – Knowing the Love of God

Opening Discussion Questions:

What motivates you in your relationships, work, and faith? (Refer to motivational factors like belonging, identity, achievement, etc.)

How do you see God's love at work in the world and in your life?

Scripture Focus: Ephesians 3:14-21

Study Questions:

Read Ephesians 3:14-16. What does it mean for God to strengthen you with power through His Spirit? How does this apply to the challenges you face today?

In Ephesians 3:17-18, Paul describes being rooted and established in love. How does trust in God deepen our understanding of His love?

Reflect on the "height, depth, length, and breadth" of God's love (Ephesians 3:18). How does this shape your perspective on who is included in God's family and how we are to live in unity?

In what ways does Paul's doxology in Ephesians 3:20-21 inspire you to trust in God's power and love for transformation?

Activity: Exploring God's Love – The Infinite Ocean Metaphor

Reflect on the metaphor of God's love as an infinite ocean. Spend time journaling or praying about areas in your life where you need to “dive deeper” into God's love.

Application:

Identify one area where you can trust God more deeply this week. Pray for the courage to surrender that area to Him.

As a life group, plan an act of kindness or service that reflects God's love to others, particularly across barriers of culture, background, or personal differences.

Prayer Focus:

Spend time praying for:

A deeper understanding of God's love.

Unity within your church and community.

Boldness to trust and reflect God's love in your relationships and actions.

Closing Reflection:

Meditate on 1 John 4:19: "We love because He first loved us." How does this truth empower you to live a life of love and unity in Christ?