

# Growing Strong in Love

Long Beach Alliance Church ~ Pastor Chris Lankford ~ Sunday, October 5

**And to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ~ Ephesians 3:19 (ESV)**

## 1) *The Soil of God's Love*

- A) There is Good News! God initiates/creates an ongoing relationship with His followers (Ephesians 3:15) through faith in Christ (3:17a; cf. 2:8-9). Life may drain you, but God provides refueling power through His Spirit for the “inner being” (3:16), continually filling His “saints” (3:18).
- B) Faith grows in the organic soil (3:17b, “rooted and grounded”) of a love relationship with Jesus Christ (3:17b). This is an absolutely crucial truth! Knowledge, apart from love, cannot lead to growth in Christ! Only a love relationship with Christ grows healthy and strong (cf. 2:4, 5:2, 5:25)!
- C) Like a grove of giant redwood trees, Christians grow in the fertile soil of love (3:18, “with all the saints”). Reflective of the community between Father, Spirit, and Christ (cf. 3:14-17a), true strength comes through a growing comprehension of Christian love among “saints” (3:18).

## 2) *The Inexplicably Expansive Love of Christ*

- A) Paul’s prayer for “all saints” (3:18) is to comprehend (grasp hold of) the boundless immensity of Christ’s love in all its immeasurable splendor.
- B) Do the circumstances of life distract us from relationship with Christ? Does sin plague us and “take us out” of our relationship with Christ?
- C) We can spend our lives growing in knowledge of our circumstances, our sin, and even solving our issues with apparent wisdom. But true transformation only comes through the regular Spirit-filling of the inexplicably powerful knowledge of Christ’s love in our lives (3:19)!

# Growth Group Guide

## Take a Closer Look!

- What about being “grounded in love” strengthens believers enough to “comprehend” the love of Christ?
- How can Paul’s readers “know the love of Christ” when he later says it “surpasses knowledge?”
- How does knowing “the love of Christ” lead to experiencing “the fullness of God?”
- Who are “all the saints?” Why does Paul emphasize all of them here?

## Take It Home!

- How is knowing a lot about Jesus different from knowing “the love of Christ?” Which describes you more?
- What experiences have helped you understand the immensity of Christ’s love more? Share with your growth group!

## Take It Further!

- How does 1 John 4:7-12 help us know “the love of Christ” more? How does this relate to Ephesians 3:17-19? How do these aspects of love show up in your relationship with Jesus?