

(We are) LOVED TO LOVE

God's Love Transforms Sexuality, Gender, Marriage, and Singleness

Ephesians 3:14-19; Matthew 22:37-39

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Series Reset: God's Design

I. The Immeasurable Love of God (Ephesians 3:14-19)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father... that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

A. God's Limitless love

The *Width* of God's love: Titus 3:3-5; Revelation 5:9-10

The *Length* of God's love: Ephesians 1:3-5; John 17:24

The *Depth* of God's love: Romans 5:6-8; Psalm 136:1

The *Height* of God's love: Psalm 103:11

B. Rooted and Grounded in Love (John 10:27-30; Romans 8:37-39)

C. Experiencing God's Love in the Gospel

II. We are Loved to Love (Matthew 22:37-39; I John 4:19; John 14:21, 23)

A. Loving God

We Love God by *Obeying* Him.

We Love God by *Worshipping* Him.

B. Loving Others

Loving *One Another*

Loving those who *Disagree* or *Oppose*

For Further Study

1. **God's love** for us is a common theme throughout the Bible. Here are some classic passages that teach this profound truth—that we are deeply loved by our Creator, the Almighty God.

Romans 8:31-39

Psalm 103

Lamentations 3:22-23

John 15:9-17

Romans 5:6-8

Zephaniah 3:17

I John 3:1-3; 16

I John 4:9-10; 19

Psalm 136

John 3:16-17

Galatians 2:20

Titus 3:3-6

2. One of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer is to help us grasp God's love for us. How amazing it is that God wants us to truly **know** His love for us. He longs to pour His love into our hearts, and He longs for us to know that we are His children! Look at these verses: **Romans 5:5; 8:15-17; Galatians 4:6-7.**

3. The Bible also teaches that **God's love is so powerful and compelling** that it drives us to **trust Him by obeying Him**—joyfully surrendering to Him, and to **love others** in the same way that He loves us. Trace those themes in the following verses:

God's love drives us to obey/trust/surrender to Him:

2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Psalm 63:3-5; Matthew 13:44; Galatians 2:20

God's love for us motivates us to sacrificially love others:

I John 3:16-18; 4:7-12, 18-22; John 13:34-35;

To Discuss: With our families, friends, community groups

It is a great discipline to not only study God's Word on our own, but to study God's word in community with others—where we can be helped and encouraged not only to study the Bible but also to put it into practice—to obey the Bible!!

1) Review the verses in the outline about the width, length, depth, and height of God's love. Affirm each other with promises from these verses—remind each other of the astonishing love of Christ.

2) In Ephesians 3, the words “rooted” and “grounded” were used to describe Paul's desire for us—that God's love would be our foundation and our security. Discuss how being grounded in God's love would impact:

*our relationships

*our struggles with fear/worry

*our confidence

*our obedience to God's word

*our generosity

*our relationships with those
oppose us

3) How are we doing as a family/community group in showing God's love to one another? How welcome would someone from a completely different lifestyle or background feel if they were to step into our group? How does God's love for us motivate us to extend love to new groups of people?