

**THE INFINITE LOVE OF CHRIST**  
**Ephesians 3:17-18**

**INTRODUCTION :**

Summer Invitation for Bar-b-que

What happens when you come from a vacation/nice place?

Answer : You feel recharged and ready to do your work.

This is why ninamnam natin itong verses 14-21, it's our 4<sup>th</sup> week studying this, so that when we go on practicing our Christian life, we are recharged.

Ephesians 3:14-21

Pray

**REVIEW**

Ephesians 3:

<sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Christ is in us but is he at home with us? If he's at home with us, here's the result.

**I. THE RESULT OF CHRIST'S LIFE IN US**

What is the result?

...And I pray that (hina) you being rooted and established in love,...

Explain : this "hina" part - since now Christ is "katoikesis" (dwelling) is now at home in our hearts, we are now "rooted" and "established" in love.

Question : What does it mean now that we are "rooted and established in love."

1. It gives us strength.  
...**rooted** and established in love

Etymology : rhizoo "verb" – to take root, to strengthen

Question : So how does knowing that Christ dwells in our hearts give us strength?  
When do we need strength?

Example 1 : We need strength during temptations

Illustration : Kapag kumakatok daw si Satanas sa pintuan ng ating puso since Christ is already living in our hearts, Siya na pasagutin mo ng pinto. Ang problema nga daw, pinapadaan natin siya sa likuran.

2. It gives us stability.  
...rooted and **established** in love...

Etymology : themeloo – to make stable – foundation

Example 1 : We need stability during trials

Illustration : One of my greatest assurances, in one of my weak moments, I was deeply anxious about our finances...in my prayer time, this was God's assurance. "Jerry, do you think pababayaan ko ang anak kong si Hesus? Now my Son is in you, do you think I will not take care of my Son who lives in you already?"

Remember this my beloved, we always say, "huwag kang mag-alala, hindi tayo pababayaan ng Dios...pero the question is, paano ka nakakasigurado as a Christian...it's simply because hindi pababayaan ng Dios Ama sa langit ang anak Niyang si Hesus na nasa puso natin."

BUT here's the greatest assurance  
"rooted and established **in love**..."

Explain : He gives us strength and stability because He loves us.

Illustration : When you are in love with a person, what is one of the things you love to do? Look at that person. Kaya nga, may picture ka sa wallet o sa opisina o sa wallpaper o sa cellphone.

God is constantly looking at us because He is in love with us. We just have to call on Him for help.

2 Chronicles 16:9<sup>9</sup> For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

II. THE REACTION TO CHRIST'S LOVE IN US  
...**may have power** together with all the saints, **to grasp**  
...**may be able to comprehend** with all the saints

1. To fully understand Christ's love

#### Etymology

– exischyō – may have power – may be able – meaning full strength

- katalambano - to grasp– comprehend - “kata” “lambano” to grasp, used for fishermen or hunters

Tagalog term : “huli ko na..” in English, “Oh, I got it.”

Question : How do you fully understand something?

Answer : If you've experienced it.

Illustration : Old woman embracing Chicay in the cancer centre and she said, I know, I've been there before.

a.) We fully understand the love of Christ by receiving His unconditional love.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Proof of God's love : He gave His Son Jesus Christ....

Bible : It's not about man chasing God. It's about God chasing man.

b.) We fully understand the love of Christ by giving His unconditional love.

Explain : Aah...ganito pala ang love ni Lord, kasi I loved even those who are my enemies.

Greek difference of love :

Agapao – voluntary act – I love you even if....

Phileo – involuntary act – I love you because...you have no choice but to love – e.g. beautiful girl, you fall in love or nice to you, you fall in love, he is your friend, you love him...

All commands in the New Testament regarding love is “agapao”

Illustration : Pastor, I don't love my wife anymore. What should I do? Pastor replied, “Go home and love her.” Man answered, “Didn't you hear what I said, I don't love her anymore. What shall I do?”, Pastor replied again, “Go home and love her.”, Man replied again, “Pastor, are you listening? I told you I don't love her and you're advise to me is to go home and lover her?” Pastor replied, “Yes, I didn't tell you to go home and have some romantic feelings for her but I told you to love her even if you don't have any feelings for her.”

Follow-up Illustration : Wife goes to a pastor saying, “Gusto kong hiwalayan asawa ko dahil hindi ko na siya mahal.” Wife asks for advise, pastor advised, “Go home and love your husband.” The wife got it and after a few weeks came back to the pastor, the pastor asked, “Now do you still want to separate from your husband?” The wife answered, “Of course not, because I love him” This woman got it.

And this illustration can be applied in any situation ...loving enemies...loving the unloveable.

...may have power **together with all the saints**, to grasp  
...may be able to comprehend **with all the saints**

Question again : Who are the saints?  
“hagios” – holy ones – separated ones

To a Christian (the saints)...

1. Love is our primary identification

John 13:35 <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

2. Love is our primary motivation

1 Corinthians 13 <sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues <sup>[a]</sup> of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, <sup>[b]</sup> but have not love, I gain nothing.

3. Love is our primary obligation

<sup>36</sup>"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>[b]</sup> <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The paradox of loving as an obligation

Paradox – a seeming contradiction but in reality it’s the truth

e.g. It’s my obligation to love you but because I do it out love it doesn’t become an obligation at all.

### III. THE REACH OF CHRIST'S LOVE FOR US

may have power together with all the saints to grasp **how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.**

#### 1. How wide is the love of Christ?

Etymology : "platos" – breadth, of great extent, to the corners of the earth.

In short, to all men "For God so loved the world..."

Psalm 103: <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us

Explain : God gave Jesus to all men...Muslims, Hindus and etc. –THE DIFFERENCE now is if they've received that love.

Ephesians 2: <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Application : We should love everyone.

Story : The boy on Valentine's Day giving away cards... "not one...not even one"

#### 2. How long is the love of Christ?

Etymology : "mekos" length.

Ephesians 1: <sup>4</sup>For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

In short, minahal Niya tayo even before this world was created

Application :

Quote : Love is a commitment that has a beginning but has no end.

#### 3. How high is the love of Christ?

Etymology : "hypsos" rootword "hyper"

Ephesians 1: <sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1: <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

In short, sobra-sobra Siyang magmahal...

Personal application : Ganoon din dapat tayo magmahal...sobra-sobra.

Matthew 5: <sup>44</sup>But I tell you: Love your enemies<sup>[1]</sup> and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>that you may be sons of your Father in heaven

Romans 12 <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Romans 12 : <sup>20</sup>On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

Matthew 18 <sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

<sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

(Peter thinks he's being generous because the requirement is three times...)

#### 4. How deep is the love of Christ?

Etymology : "bathos" (bathosphere) deep, extreme, poverty

Ephesians 2: <sup>1</sup>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature<sup>[a]</sup> and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

In short, God reached us even if we were hopeless...steeped in sin.

Application : No one is beyond the love of Christ

In applying this deep love of Christ to others?

Matthew 18<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

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One day C. H. Spurgeon was walking through the English countryside with a friend. As they strolled along, the evangelist noticed a barn with a weather vane on its roof. At the top of the vane were these words: GOD IS LOVE. Spurgeon remarked to his companion that he thought this was a rather inappropriate place for such a message. "Weather vanes are changeable," he said, "but God's love is constant."

"I don't agree with you about those words, Charles," replied his friend. "You misunderstood the meaning. That sign is indicating a truth: Regardless of which way the wind blows, God is love."

Or

In America there is a law stating a woman must take care of her child. So, a man comes to a new mother's home. He says "Are you taking care of your baby? The Law says you have to." The woman, tenderly holding her baby, said, "I don't need a law to make me take care of my baby." Why? Because she loves her baby! She feeds him, holds him, changes him because she loves him. I no longer need the Law because I'm under Christ—a law of LOVE.