

Know Love That Surpasses Knowledge

Ponder: How can you know something that surpasses knowledge?

Scripture: “To know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge . . .” (Ephesians 3:19a, NKJV).

At first, Paul’s prayer for the Christians at Ephesus sounds like he’s talking out of both sides of his mouth! If Christ’s love surpasses knowledge, how can you know it?

We may never fully understand the love of Christ. But we certainly can know that He loves us, and we can grow in that understanding. The better we understand it, the more likely we are to love and obey Him as we ought, and the easier it will be for us to love other people, “warts and all.”

One of the richest blessings in all my years of preaching has been visiting, teaching, and mentoring prison inmates. Almost every Tuesday night for fourteen years God helped me to understand the love of Christ in that environment. I met, taught, and baptized men who had committed unspeakable crimes, from murder to rape and child molestation. How can Jesus love people who have behaved so monstrously?

No doubt Paul understood this better than most. He had been a rabid opponent of the Lord’s church, torturing and even killing members of the body of Christ. Still, Jesus loved him, and forgave him when he repented and obeyed the gospel. Paul’s conversion was an example, a pattern for all others, no matter how horrible their past conduct (1 Timothy 1:16).

Since Jesus loves and forgives even those we might consider to be the worst of the worst, what right do I have to treat them as beyond redemption? Should I not love as Jesus loves? Such love in no way excuses sin, but it does, indeed, seek to redeem the sinner. Jesus Himself said He did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Luke 5:32).

Understanding the immeasurable love of Christ helps us to grasp His love for each of us. Sometimes I wonder, “How can He love me?” I may never understand completely, but like the Ephesians, I’m growing in my appreciation of it. I hope you are, too.