



SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Monday, February 1, 2021

Scripture: Ephesians 3:18-19

TITLE: The Power of Love

What is love? I've watched some interviews on YouTube on that very topic: What is love? Some people said, "Love is a feeling."

Some people said, "Love is love." I don't know what that means, so probably they don't either.

Others said, "Love is that feeling of joy between friends or family."

Some younger interviewees said, "Love is really great sex."

Well, as Christians, we not only want to define love correctly, but we want to allow that love to transform us. What do I mean by that?

Let's look at the Apostle Paul's comments on love in Ephesians 3:18-19 (NLT):

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Wow. Can you imagine the limits of God's love? According to Paul, he says, "How wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is." In other words, it's in a class all of its own. His love for His children knows no limits. It's unconditional. Isn't this what we all desire? Unconditional love? I think so.

But what is love? Well, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 gives us the answer: Love is patient, kind; it doesn't envy or boast. It isn't arrogant. It isn't selfish. It's not irritable. It doesn't keep track of wrongdoing. It doesn't celebrate evil but embraces truth. It bears all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

There is so much we could unpack, but love is pure, holy, and committed.

Today, people claim love tolerates and endorses all decisions. That's not love. That's hate. Love has holy boundaries. Love means righteous judgment. And love means forgiveness. Love isn't one-dimensional. It's Christ-dimensional.

You know, there are few people in this world who get this. One is my wife. My wife experienced hell with me in our marriage, but she bore all things, hoped all things, and endured. She isn't resentful and never keeps track of wrong. I am loved by her, because she knows and embraces

the love of Christ. When we know and embrace the love of Christ - all of it - we then can experience the fullness of life, and power of God.

Today, here's my challenge for you. Look over 1 Corinthians 13 and identify where it is you excel in love, but also where you struggle. Do you excel at being patient, but struggle with embracing truth? Do you excel at selflessness, but struggle with bringing up the sins of the past? In wherever it is you excel, thank God for that, but then ask God to help you grow in your areas of struggle.

When we know and embrace the true love of God, then we can live life to the fullest and experience the true power of God.