

The Life of the Apostle Paul

- Imitators of God -

Follow Our Father's Example

Ephesians 5:1-2 **NKJV**

- v1 Therefore **be imitators of God as dear children.** v2 And **walk in love, as Christ also has loved us** and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Ephesians 5:1-2 **AMPC**

- v1 **THEREFORE BE imitators of God [copy Him *and* follow His example]**, as well-beloved children [imitate their father].
- V2 And **walk in love**, [esteeming and delighting in one another] **as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us**, a slain offering and sacrifice to God [for you, so that it became] a sweet fragrance. [Ezek. 20:41.]

The Love of God Compels Us

II Corinthians 5:14,15,17

- v14 **For the love of Christ compels us**, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;
- v15 and He died for all, that **those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.**
- V17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, he *is* a new creation; **old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**
- V18 Now all things *are* of God, **who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,
- v19 that is, **that God was in Christ** reconciling the world to Himself, **not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**

Resurrection Power The Risen Christ

I Corinthians 15:1-2

- v1 Moreover, brethren, **I declare to you the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received and **in which you stand,**
- v2 **by which also you are saved,** if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.
- v3 For I delivered to you **first of all that which I also received:** that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,**
- v4 and that He was **buried,** and **that He rose again** the third day **according to the Scriptures,**

From Saul to Paul

Ephesians 3:8-11

- v8 **To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given**, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
- v9 and **to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery**, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;
- v10 to **the intent** that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*,
- v11 according to **the eternal purpose** which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Boldness Through Faith in Christ

Ephesians 3:12-19

- **V12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.**
- **V16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,**
- **V17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,**
- **V18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—**
- **V19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**

Strengthened By the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 3:16

- V16 that He would grant you, **according to the riches of His glory**, to be **strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man**,
- **Strengthened with might** literally “become mighty by His power which the Holy Spirit brings to work in our lives.
- **Paul had the understanding** that the **power of the resurrected Christ**, the same **Spirit that raised Christ dwelled in his life** and that **enabled him to do** & accomplish the work of ministry given him.

Faith In His Love For Us

Ephesians 3:17

- **V17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,**

Faith In His Love for us brings about the abundant life that Jesus promised.

- **John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**
- **I John 3:8 ..for this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**

Paul Experienced God's Love

Ephesians 3:18-19 NKJV

- V18 may be **able to comprehend** with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height –
- V19 **to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**

Comprehend means: to receive experientially, not simply to understand intellectually.

Paul walked in the experience of God's love shown him, just not to know about it, but he operated in it every moment.

The Fullness of God

Ephesians 3:19

- v19 to **know the love of Christ** which passes knowledge, that you may be filled with all the **fullness** of God.

In V19 the word “fullness” in this verse is:

pleroma (play-row-mah), from Strong's Concordance of the Bible #4138

The word means - Full number, full compliment, full measure, that which has been completed. The word describes a ship with a full cargo & crew, and a town with no empty houses, ***Pleroma* strongly emphasizes fullness & completion.**

To Know the Love of Christ is the greatest fullness participate in all of God's blessings, resources & wisdom.

God is Able to Do Abundantly Above

Ephesians 3:20-21

- V20 Now **to Him who is able** to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us,**
- v21 **to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus** to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
- Paul walked in **the assurance & confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit** that worked in him.
- Paul believed through faith that **God's resurrection power of love** dwelt in Him & he could do all things through Christ that strengthened him for God.