



Sermon Notes

The Pursuit of Love

April 25, 2021

Twila Senter

Last week I shared Part 2 of the message, "Walk In the Way of Love". We took a closer look at Ephesians 5:1-2 in which God instructs us to follow his example as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us.

The problem is that we can put our trust in God for the forgiveness of our sins and yet still be deaf to the message of God's love.

It takes the power of the Holy Spirit for us to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge so that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:17-19).

Our part is to repent, to change the way we think about love. To turn from living according to our flesh and turn to living the way of love according to the Spirit. To yield to God's love. To learn of God's love.

1 Timothy 6:11 *But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.*

Our relationship with God is not passive, it is active. We are to be in pursuit of him and of his ways. We are to desire to become more like him.

2 Samuel 2:18-23 *18The three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab, Abishai and Asahel. Now Asahel was as fleet-footed as a wild gazelle. 19He chased Abner, turning neither to the right nor to the left as he pursued him. 20Abner looked behind him and asked, "Is that you, Asahel?" "It is," he answered. 21Then Abner said to him, "Turn aside to the right or to the left; take on one of the young men and strip him of his weapons." But Asahel would not stop chasing him. 22Again Abner warned Asahel, "Stop chasing me! Why should I strike you down? How could I look your brother Joab in the face?" 23But Asahel refused to give up the pursuit; so Abner thrust the butt of his spear into Asahel's stomach, and the spear came out through his back. He fell there and died on the spot. And every man stopped when he came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died.*

Are we that determined to grow in the knowledge of God? To participate in his divine nature? To know his love and walk in it?

Hebrews 12:1-2 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Philippians 3:10 *I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

So how do we run this race? How do we come to know Christ?



Sermon Notes

The Pursuit of Love
April 25, 2021
Twila Senter

2 Peter 1:3-4 *3His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

It is God's divine power that has given us everything we need for a godly life!

The word translated power here in 2 Peter 1:3 and Ephesians 3:16 comes from the Greek word *dynamis* which means force or miraculous power.

God's divine power is at work in our lives through our knowledge of him.

According to Blum, the ancient Greek word **knowledge** doesn't refer to a casual acquaintance. It means an exact, complete, and thorough knowledge. [Enduring Word Bible Commentary 2 Peter Chapter 1](#)

We come to know God by spending time with him through prayer, through the reading and study of his word, and through fellowship with other follower's of Christ.

Bible reading is our opportunity to open up our hearts to the heart of our Heavenly Father - to learn of Him, and to become like Him.

It is impossible to know the love of God and hear His words of affirmation without reading His Word.
[Pastor Chris - Affirming Love (Words of Affirmation) - 1/10/21]

God has invited us to come. He has called us by name.

He has called us out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9)

He has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace (2 Timothy 1:9).

The LORD says, "Fear not: for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name; you are mine (Isaiah 43:1).

We are called children of God, because that is what we are (1 John 3:1).

John 1:14 *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Hebrews 1:3 *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

We participate in the divine nature through the promise of new birth, the promise of the Holy Spirit, and the promise of his presence.

