

“I Am Loved Beyond Measure”

WHO AM I? FINDING IDENTITY IN CHRIST | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | MAY 12/13, 2018 |
LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24; JOHN 3:16-17; 1 JOHN 3:1-2; PSALM 103: 11-13; ISAIAH 53; I JOHN 4:9-11; 2
CORINTHIANS 5:17; EPHESIANS 4:22-24; EPHESIANS 3:14-19

“I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge.” (Ephesians 3:17-19)

The Nature of the Love of God

Faithful and ever-new (Lamentations 3:22-23)

Self-giving and saving (John 3:16-17; 1 John 3:1-2)

Stronger and measureless (Psalm 103:11-13)

Jesus Christ as the Ultimate Revelation of God’s Love

Sacrifice for healing and life (Isaiah 53:5-10)

Self-giving love as atonement for sin (1 John 4:9-11)

Stripping off Barriers to the Love of God

Undone and remade by God (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Stripping off the old and putting on the new (Ephesians 4:22-24)

Taking Root in the Measureless Love of God

Diving into the measureless depths (Ephesians 3:14-19)

Overflowing with the measureless love of God (1 John 4:7-12)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you felt most loved in your life? On the flip side, when have you felt most unloved? In both circumstances, what happened?
2. Continuing our current series at Eastbrook, “Who Am I?”, this week we look at how understanding and knowing the love of God impacts our identity. Before going through these questions, ask God to speak to you about your identity and His love through His word.
3. As you read the following verses what do they tell us about God’s love?
 - Deuteronomy 7:9
 - Lamentations 3:22-23
 - Psalm 91:4
 - Hosea 1:14
 - Zephaniah 3:17
 - Psalm 103:11-13
4. If Jesus “is the image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15), what does the life, death and resurrection of Jesus tell us about the love of God? Let the following Scripture passages help you answer that:
 - Isaiah 53:5-10
 - John 3:16-17
 - John 15:9-10
 - 1 John 3:1-2
 - Galatians 2:20
 - 1 John 4:9-11
5. It is one thing to know about the love of God informationally, but another thing to let that knowledge transform our lives. What has helped you to deeply know the love of God? How has knowing the love of God changed you?
6. Read Ephesians 4:22-24. In what ways do you need to strip off the old identity to put on the new identity in Christ? How has the old hindered your experience of the love of God?
7. Take some time, whether alone or in your small group, to slowly pray through Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21.
8. What is one thing God is speaking to you through this study? If you are on your own, write it down and pray about it. If you are in a small group, take time to discuss this with one another before praying together.

TAKE IT FURTHER:

Dig deeper on the themes from today with further Bible study or reading. You could join with our daily reading plan that accompanies the “Who Am I?” series:

- Monday, 5/14: Isaiah 53:5-10; Galatians 2:20
- Tuesday, 5/15: Lamentations 3:22-23; Romans 8:38-39
- Wednesday, 5/16: Psalm 91:4; 1 John 3:1-2
- Thursday, 5/17: Psalm 103:11-13; John 3:16-17
- Friday, 5/18: Psalm 136:1-3; John 15:9-10
- Saturday, 5/19: Zephaniah 3:17; 1 John 4:9-11

Read a book on this theme, such as Bernard of Clairvaux’s *On Loving God*, C. S. Lewis’ *The Four Loves* or James Bryan Smith’s *Embracing the Love of God*.