



Christ is Life: A Pastor's Prayer for His People

Philippians 1:7-11

Read Philippians 1:7-11 together:

"It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

Grow in Love

- ? Regarding love, what's the difference between loving one's Doritos and loving one's spouse? It's the same word. Does love have a different meaning in these two examples? If so, define each one.
- ? Read Matthew 22:34-40. In this passage, Jesus shares the greatest commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Why is this such a profound statement? How did the Pharisees try to back Jesus into a corner?
- ? How do we let our love for God grow?
 - o If we say that we love God but have such disdain for some people in our lives, is there something wrong with our love for God? Is that the barometer we should use? Why or why not?
 - o How do we know whether we have a "Doritos love" for God or a genuine love for God?
 - o Is growing in our love for God as simple as praying, reading our Bible, and going to church? Or, is there more to it? Why or why not?
 - o Are works required for our love of God to grow?
 - o How does having shallow theology cause us to have shallow relationships?

The more you grow in your understanding of God's holiness, His beauty, His matchless grace, the more your love grows.

Grow in Holiness for God's Glory

- ? Why does God want us to grow in our love for him?
- ? What are the results of a deeper understanding of the love of God?
- ? How do we so easily overcomplicate Christian maturity? How can it be simplified?
- ? How does getting serious about one's faith help us to grow in love?
- ? How is church hopping detrimental to our faith walk?

- ? Pastor MacDonald said this weekend that love is a muscle. What did he mean by that statement?
- ? How does serving flex our “love muscle”?

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

- Ephesians 3:14-19, ESV