

A.R.M.

In Love

Ephesians

*Keywords Devotional*

## Ephesians Ch 1, v 5

IN LOVE he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will

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God has predestined to adopt those who have faith in His Son, and He does this because of His perfect love. Our adoption into the family of God is an expression of God's love. His own perfect love is what motivates Him to bring us into His family as beloved children.



## Ephesians Ch 3, v 17

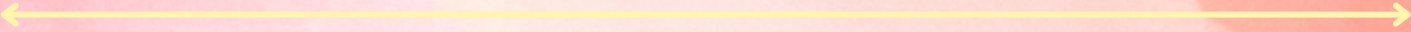
that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you,  
being rooted and grounded IN LOVE

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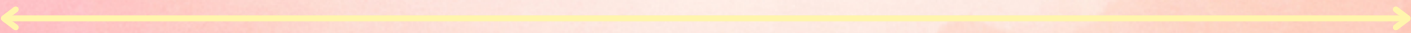
God desires for His people to be rooted and grounded in His perfect love. As we know the love of Christ better each day, we are like trees that are rooted deeper in His love for us. Love is the foundation of our lives as followers of Jesus.



## Connecting the Verses



The same love that granted us access to the family of God, is the same love that drives our life. We don't just need God's love initially for salvation and redemption. We need His love daily for sanctification. Just as our faith in the gospel is a response to God's great love, our life should be in response to that same incredible love. As we understand God's love that saved us, we'll more accurately reflect that love to the world around us, because we will be rooted so deep in the love of God. And, when we're rooted in God's love, that same love will be produced in our lives as good fruit.





## Ephesians Ch 4, v 2


with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing  
with one another IN LOVE

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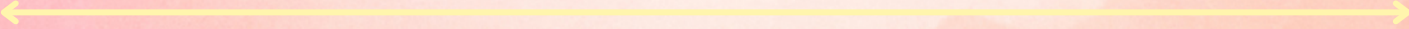
God's people are called to endure patiently with one another in love. Patience and gentleness are rooted in a love for people. This is what allows us to patiently bear the burdens of another in love.



## Connecting the Verses



God predestined us to adoption because He loved us. And, He calls us to walk in that same love for one another. This is why we need to be rooted and grounded in the love of Jesus. If we don't know God's love for us, we won't be able to walk in that same love for others. Love will bear the burdens of another, in order to make the burden lighter for them. This is what Christ has done for us, and we need a deeper revelation of this truth each and every day.







## Ephesians Ch 4, v 15


but, speaking the truth IN LOVE, may grow up in all things  
into Him who is the head—Christ—

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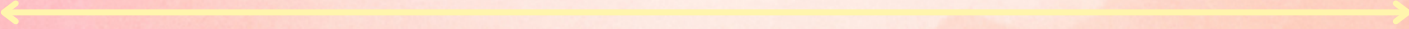
We are called to share the truth but in a loving way. Love and truth always go hand in hand. As people of God, we should desire to sharpen others with the truth of God's word, but always out of love for them. Love seeks the ultimate benefit of another. This kind of love should provide the framework for how we deliver truth. In other words, we should wield the truth in such a way that leads people into the best possible life God has for them.



## Connecting the Verses



The love of God not only predestines us to adoption and leads our lives, but also drives our decision to share the truth. Whenever we share truth, we should have the same heart of love that God has for us. God adopted us into His family because He loves and cares for us. That same love should shape the way that we share the truth. But, this requires us to be rooted deeper in a knowledge of God's love each and every day. As we know Christ, we'll know how to better speak the truth to others for their benefit.





## Ephesians Ch 4, v 16

from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.

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The body of Christ is designed in such a way that its capable of building itself up in love. Love is what produces growth, healing, and the overall benefit of the body. But, the activity of love is not only what produces improvement within the church. The knowledge of God's love is what ultimately brings the church into greater edification. The church benefits and is strengthened through a deeper knowledge of God's love.



## Connecting the Verses

When God's children imitate His love, the church is edified. God has designed the body of Christ in such a way that growth happens when believers love each other with the love God has for them. Once again, this assumes they know what the love of God looks like first. We cannot build each other up in love unless we first know what real love looks like. This is why we need to be daily rooted in a deeper understanding of the profound love that God has for us. God's love adopts us into His family, grounds us firmly, produces growth in the body, and shows us how to treat one another.



## Ephesians Ch 5, v 2

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.

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We're commanded to walk in love as those who have come into a loving relationship with the living God. If we're truly children of God, we will imitate the ways of our loving Father. And, God loved the world so much that He gave Himself up for the benefit of humanity.



## Connecting the Verses



God has invited us into His eternal, incomprehensible love. We're not just recipients of His love, but we're supposed to even be extensions of His love. If we really received the love of God in faith, we will walk in His love as beloved children. Walking in love means that His love is the ultimate pursuit of our life. It doesn't just mean we're living with His love. It means we're living in His love. We are called to grow deeper in our knowledge of His love. We're called to treat people with His love. This means His love drives our interactions and shapes the way that we share the truth. When we walk in love as beloved children of God, we're building up the body of Christ and giving the world a clearer picture of the perfect love of our Heavenly Father.










## Ephesians Chapter 1, v. 3-10

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## Connecting Ephesians 1:3-10



God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. We are fully blessed through faith. We lack nothing. God chooses us to be adopted into His divine family so that we can be called children of God. He forgives us of all sin and purchases us for His own good purposes. He makes us holy and blameless in His sight and predestines us for the inheritance of His Son. He lavishes favor and grace upon us so that we can be called co-heirs with Christ. Why does God do all this? Because of His great love. He does all of this in love.

As children of God, we are immersed in this love forevermore. This great love is our entire reality now. How should we respond to this incomprehensible love of God? We should seek to know this love better each day because it's infinite. We should pursue God as our greater treasure in order to develop a deeper understanding of His love. And, we should begin to walk in this love by letting it lead the way that we live. Living in God's love doesn't just mean that we are recipients of His love; it means that we also reflect His love to the world around us.



## Connecting Ephesians 1:3-10 *(Continued)*

This means we're speaking the truth in love and building up the church in that same love God has for us. The love of God is driving human history to its culmination. The fullest human experience in the new creation is going to be a perfect, eternal existence in the fullness of God's love. God plans to re-create the entire universe so that His world and His people perfectly echo His eternal love.

As we love others with the love of our Heavenly Father, two things are happening. First, we're moving people towards the One who is perfect love, because God is love. Secondly, we're giving people a glimpse into the future new creation, when the love of God permeates all of Creation through His children.

As we walk in the love of God, we're bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to the earth, and God is working through our love to move human history one step closer to its culmination. The end goal of human history is new creation where Heaven and earth are united in Christ, and God's people live in the fullness of God's perfect love.





## Ephesians Chapter 3, v. 14-19

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.



## Connecting Ephesians 3:14-19

Paul prays that the church would be granted divine power through God's Spirit in order to be rooted and grounded in the love of Christ. It takes the supernatural power of God to understand the depths of His perfect love. If we want to be rooted deeper in His perfect love, we need to rely on His spiritual strength to do so. Christ dwelling in the hearts of His people is the equivalent of us being filled with the fullness of God. This is what it means to know the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge.

We can't fully understand the infinite love of God on this side of Heaven. There may be a chance that we never fully, perfectly understand the love of God, but we can know His love in some capacity. His love is incomprehensible (can't be fully known), but knowable (can be understood). And, it's this understanding that brings life transformation. When we have a clearer vision of His love, we'll live a life that is more filled with the fullness of God. The life God has called us to is deeply connected to our knowledge of His love.



## Connecting Ephesians 3:14-19 *(Continued)*

If we want to live in the fullness of God, we're going to have to dedicate our lives to pursuing a deeper understanding of His love. The fullness of God is found in His love. God's love is what moves us to speak the truth in love, bear with others in love, and build up others in love. The love of God should touch every area of our life so that our entire existence is shaped by God's love for us. Walking in the love of Christ requires us to be filled with His fullness. This is why believers are set up for success in life when they pursue an ever-growing knowledge of God's great love.







## Ephesians Chapter 4, v. 1-7

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.



## Connecting Ephesians 4:1-7

Paul has been so transformed by the love of God, that he's willing to end up in prison for his faithfulness to God. As someone who is a literal prisoner, Paul is calling the church to live a life that is worthy of the calling they've been called to. In other words, Paul is calling believers to live a life worthy of the love of God. If God loves us with enduring and faithful love, shouldn't we imitate that love as His children? God loves us so much that He brings us to the highest status possible for a human being. God didn't settle for less than His best. He gave His only Son and stationed us in the highest position there is: as His beloved children who are co-heirs with Christ.





## Connecting Ephesians 4:1-7 *(Continued)*

God sees us perfectly. He knows everything about us, including everything we don't even know about ourselves. He knows every sin, weakness, and failure we'll ever commit throughout our lives, and He still chooses to love us despite those things. In other words, God loves us through our weakness and failure. Shouldn't this be the kind of love that marks His children? This is what it means to live worthy of God's calling: to walk in the love of God for the rest of our lives. This includes humility, gentleness, patience, and enduring love that lives the burdens of others.

This kind of loving life isn't possible without the spiritual strength of God, which He provides through His Holy Spirit. And, this spiritual strength is attached to knowing the love of God. When we know His love, we are rooted and grounded in that love in order to produce the fruit of that love. This is ultimately what Paul is calling the church to. If we're going to speak the truth in love, build others up in love, and walk in God's love, we, as the collective church, need to grow in a knowledge of the love that we share in common.







## Connecting Ephesians 4:1-7 *(Continued)*

This is why Paul emphasizes all that we have in common.

Real love will promote unity in the church, and this requires us to focus on everything we share. We have the same salvation and faith, we are filled with the same Spirit, we belong to the same God, we share the same love, and we are secured by the same Savior. This is our common calling. We are all called to love, but it's hard to love when you only focus on those differences that can potentially lead to division. The call on the church, both collectively, and as individuals, is to walk in the love of Christ and build each other up in that same love.

And, God gives us the necessary grace to live this kind of loving life. At the end of the day, we lean on God's grace to live a life worthy of the calling. Love for others is rooted in an understanding of God's grace towards us. This is why we meditate on the gospel and grow in a deeper understanding of His love daily.





## Ephesians Chapter 4, v. 14-16

so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.



## Connecting Ephesians 4:14-16

Paul contrasts two kinds of people here. Some are “childish” because they are easily deceived. They are gullible and don’t have a foundational knowledge of the truth. They believe almost everything they’re told, especially by those who claim to speak for God. They have no solid, firm foundation of truth. In contrast, some speak the truth in love and build up the body of Christ in that same love and truth. God desires for believers to be people who contribute to and build the church, rather than people who are a liability to the church. When people are easily deceived, it inevitably affects those whom they have relationships with. They bring people with them.



## Connecting Ephesians 4:14-16 *(Continued)*

What is the fundamental difference between these two kinds of people? Knowledge of God's love, is found in the truth of His word. Mature believers who build others up, are people who have a confident understanding of God's love in His word. God's truth is what reveals His love to us. If you want to know God's love, you have to read His word.

In order to build others up in God's love, you personally have to know that love well enough to be secure. The love of God gives us the security to be able to go and serve others with that same self-giving love Christ has shown us.





## Connecting Ephesians 4:14-16 *(Continued)*

Love is what grows the church. When the people of God operate in God's love for one another, the church will be developed and built up. This means that we're sharing the truth and allowing the love of God to frame up how we deliver that truth. Love is to the church, what water is to a plant. Love produces growth by the grace of God, and this love is always going to be consistent with the truth. God's truth lays out what love looks like. The laws of God provide a clear definition of love. When we know the truth, we'll know how to love each other in such a way that builds up the church in the best possible way.





## Ephesians Chapter 5, v. 1-3

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.  
And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself  
up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

But sexual immorality and all impurity or  
covetousness must not even be named among you,  
as is proper among saints.

## Connecting Ephesians 5:1-3

If we are truly children of God, we are going to imitate our Father. This is what children do. They imitate their parents. If God is love, then we will reflect His love as His beloved children. We can be so secure in the love of our Father, that we can freely love others. There is a confidence that comes along with being perfectly known and loved by God, and this confidence leads to a life of self-giving love for others.

This is why God desires His people to be rooted and grounded in His love each and every day. As we remain grounded in God's love, our lives will reflect that love to the world. To walk in the love of God doesn't just mean that His love is guiding the way that we live, it also means His love is the focus of our attention. If His love rules our minds, our lives will reflect that love.



## Connecting Ephesians 5:1-3 *(Continued)*

But, what does it mean to walk in God's love? It means we're imitating the love Jesus demonstrated through His life, death, and resurrection. He loved us so much that He came into this world to live the life we never could, in order to pay our sin debt and die our death. Christ's love is self-sacrificial in nature and seeks the ultimate benefit of another. But the love of Christ is also untainted by sin.

This is why Paul mentions that sin shouldn't be named among us. He only names a few, because we don't need an exhaustive list of what sin is. The point is that our new lives in Christ are no longer compatible with our old ways of sin. We are made a new creation through faith, in order to be compatible with the life of love God has called us to.

And, this life of love includes living free from sin.







## Connecting Ephesians 5:1-3 *(Continued)*

Sin corrupts our ability to love. Sin is actually a violation of perfect love. Love is laid out perfectly in the laws of God. And, if sin is a violation (missing the mark) of God's law, then we are violating the law of love. In other words, to operate outside of God's laws is to operate outside of love. God's laws lay out what love will look like. So, if I do something that is disobedient to God's laws (sin) I am not loving. We are never simultaneously loving and sinning.

This is why personal sin, and corporate sin, are a huge deal. Sin itself is the opposite of love. And, sin corrupts our ability to love people well. This is why Paul says that sexual immorality, covetousness, and impurity shouldn't be named among believers. It isn't appropriate. A life of sin is not a life that is worthy of the gospel. A life of love is a life that glorifies God and is worthy of the calling on our lives.



