

The Everlasting Love of God

Ephesians 3:14-21 Jeremiah 31:3-4.

-Past week's sermon- (3) prayers to pray to experience a Passion for the Lord Jesus Christ.

-As parents we may have said to our children, "Now you be good." There is nothing wrong with this but we find many times that we don't measure up to whatever standard we perceive God wants. God wants our friendship most of all: John 15:15. Trying to be good will fail. (Story of the knot hole in the fence). Paul states he is, "The chief of sinners." (1 Timothy 1:15). The closer you get to Jesus, the light of the world, the dirtier you see yourself.

-But having a friendship is different. Prayer: "Father, grant me the grace to love Jesus the way You do." When I feel the affection of Jesus, everything changes. John 15:15. Jesus has called us His friends. Prayer: "Holy Spirit give me grace to walk in friendship with Jesus."

-We have always been taught if you go to school and study real hard and get a job you will be happy. This is not true. Deep friendships with people and Jesus will make us happy.

-The natural progression of our spiritual lives is to drift away from God. Hebrews 2:1. We waste our lives on the cares of life. We need to talk to Jesus to keep this from happening. If you don't you will drift. We need a revelation of God's love for you. Ask for this: Prayer: "Father, grant me the grace to feel your affection." This is what Paul is praying in Ephesians 3:14-21. Our Father wants us to enjoy Him.

-How have we gotten off track? We have tried to find our identity in our performance. When we stumble and sin we feel guilt. Then we try harder to do better and find we stumble again and we feel shame. Shame makes us feel like WE ARE A MISTAKE. Satan uses this as his tool. He is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). Shame pursues us when we try to pray. So we try harder and then we get angry. How is shame manifested? By all types of disorders: Anxiety, addictions, phobias, abuse, abandonment, etc. These take us out of our pain for the moment and make life livable. We are trying to find our value in our performance. You say, "I'm only as good as I behave." When we are trying to find our self-worth from what I am doing, we won't measure up.

-Example: Expensive paintings: You may look at that oil painting and say I wouldn't give you \$100.00 for that. It does not look like it is worth very much. Someone else comes along and says that painting is worth \$100,000,000. Worth is not determined by our value system. Worth is determined by what someone is willing to pay. Here it is, Jesus precious blood paid for our sins.

-Most Christians will say God loves them. Many have only a head knowledge of that love. To really know the LOVE OF GOD it has to come by revelation. God can give you that revelation but sometimes He waits for us to ask Him. Ask for grace to feel (experience) the affection of God for you personally.

-Remember this: Our identity is not in our performance. It is in Jesus and He has paid it all by His shed blood both past, present and future.

-What do we do? Hebrews 12:1-4. Cast off all sin that entangles us and fix our eyes on Jesus. Don't waste the pain we go through. God will even use our pain. Tell someone you trust that sin you are dealing with. When it is in the light it doesn't hold the power it does otherwise.

-Prayer: "FATHER GIVE ME THE GRACE TO FEEL YOUR AFFECTION FOR ME."