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Community Group Discussion Guide

July 26, 2015

Week 2 | By the Love of Jesus
Ephesians 3:17-19

Introduction

When Paul encountered Jesus and began following Him, the trajectory of his life changed. He went from being a hostile opponent of Christianity to one of Christianity's most well-known proponents. The question this invites us to ask is, "What changed?" What grabbed Paul so much that it reoriented his life?

The answer is: Paul was captivated by knowing Jesus. In his letters, we get important insight – in Paul's own words – on how knowing Jesus captured Paul's attention, fueled his worship, and motivated his mission. As we look at some of these truths that captivated Paul in this series, we see why knowing Jesus is still captivating today and can capture our attention, fuel our worship, and motivate mission in our own lives today.

Questions for Study

Read Ephesians 3:14-21 (we'll be focusing on verses 17-19)

1. In English, we use the word "love" in lots of different ways: we love sports teams, our families, favorite foods, etc. How can using the word "love" in so many different ways influence how we understand Jesus' love for us?
2. Discuss a time when you were shown sacrificial love in a significant way. How did this impact you?
3. One of the enemies of being captivated by the love of Jesus is casual familiarity with Christ's love. What does this sort of casual familiarity look like, and why can it be dangerous?
4. In Ephesians 3:17, we see that Christians are "rooted and established" in love. Jesus' love is a strong, secure love. Imagine you had to explain what this means to someone who doesn't know Jesus. What would you say?
5. Since Jesus' love is secure, how can that shape how we approach Him in the following circumstances:
 - Times when we're struggling with sin?
 - Times of suffering and trials?
 - Times of anxiety or uncertainty about the future?
6. Jesus' love is big, and inspires awe and worship. Have you ever had an experience where you were overcome by the love of Christ – where His love for you struck you in a fresh, meaningful way? Explain.
7. How can we maintain a big view of Jesus' love that inspires our worship? List a number of practical ways to do this.
8. Jesus' love changes us into people who look more and more like Him. How does this truth compare with some modern notions of love?
9. In what ways has knowing Jesus changed you? How can the assurance and "hugeness" of Jesus' love for you become a motivating factor in continuing change and ongoing spiritual maturity?
10. What is one practical step of obedience you need to take in light of what you've learned from Ephesians 3:17-19?
11. If you've got time remaining, revisit the #CaptivatedSeries reading plan Brookside is doing. Was anyone able to do any of the readings from the previous week? If so, what stood out to them from the Bible? If not, what goals do you want to set as a group to work through the remainder of the plan?