

## **The Unfathomable Love of Christ: A Love That Defies Comprehension**

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge." (Ephesians 3:17-19, KJV)

### **A Love Beyond Human Understanding**

We speak often of love—of romantic love, familial love, brotherly love—but there is a love so vast, so deep, so incomprehensible that it transcends all human definitions and experiences. This is the love of Christ, a love that "passeth knowledge" (Ephesians 3:19). It is a love that cannot be measured by human standards, for it stretches beyond the boundaries of time, space, and human reasoning. The apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, prayed that the Ephesians might "comprehend" this love, yet immediately acknowledged that it "passeth knowledge." Herein lies the divine paradox: we are called to know the unknowable, to grasp the ungraspable, to fathom the unfathomable. This is the love that moved Christ to leave the glory of heaven, to take upon Himself the form of a servant, and to endure the agony of the cross for sinners who did not love Him in return (Philippians 2:5-8). Today, we will journey into the depths of this divine love, exploring its dimensions—its breadth, length, depth, and height—and discovering how this love transforms all who encounter it.

#### **1. The Breadth of Christ's Love: A Love for All Humanity**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16, KJV)

The love of Christ is not narrow or exclusive; it is as wide as the world itself. When we speak of the breadth of His love, we speak of its inclusivity—it reaches across cultures, races, generations, and even the chasm of sin. Christ's love is not reserved for the righteous, the moral, or the religious; it extends to the outcast, the broken, the despised, and the lost. He dined with publicans and sinners (Matthew 9:10-11), offered living water to the Samaritan woman (John 4:7-26), and promised paradise to the dying thief (Luke 23:43). His love knows no barriers, no prejudices, no limits. It is a love that embraces the prodigal son while he is still a long way off (Luke 15:20), a love that seeks the one lost sheep while leaving the ninety-nine

(Luke 15:4-7). The breadth of Christ's love assures us that no one is beyond His reach, no sin is too great for His forgiveness, and no heart is too hardened for His transforming touch.

## **2. The Length of Christ's Love: A Love That Endures Forever**

"I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." (Jeremiah 31:3, KJV)

The love of Christ is not fleeting or temporary; it is eternal. From before the foundation of the world, He knew us and loved us (Ephesians 1:4-5). His love is not contingent upon our performance, our faithfulness, or our reciprocation. It is a love that "never faileth" (1 Corinthians 13:8), a love that persists through our failures, our doubts, and our rebellions. Consider Peter, who denied Christ three times, yet was restored with the tender question, "Lovest thou me?" (John 21:15-17). Consider the Israelites, who repeatedly turned to idols, yet God declared, "I will betroth thee unto me for ever" (Hosea 2:19). The length of Christ's love stretches from eternity past to eternity future, a love that will never let us go. It is a love that pursued us when we were enemies (Romans 5:8), a love that will never abandon us (Hebrews 13:5), and a love that will one day present us *"faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy"* (Jude 1:24).

## **3. The Depth of Christ's Love: A Love That Descends to the Lowest Depths**

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9, KJV)

The depth of Christ's love is measured by the depths to which He descended for us. He did not love us from a distance; He entered into our brokenness, our suffering, and our shame. He left the adoration of angels to be born in a stable (Luke 2:7). He exchanged the robes of heaven for the rags of humanity. He who was worshipped by the universe allowed Himself to be spat upon, scourged, and crucified by the creatures He had made (Isaiah 53:3-5). The depth of His love is seen in Gethsemane, where He sweat drops of blood under the weight of our sins (Luke 22:44). It is seen on the cross, where He cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46), bearing the full wrath of God in our place. The depth of His love is a love that goes lower than we can imagine—into the grave itself—to rescue us from the pit of sin and death.

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#### **4. The Height of Christ's Love: A Love That Lifts Us to Heavenly Places**

"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."  
(Ephesians 2:6, KJV)

The love of Christ not only descends to the depths but also lifts us to the heights. We were once *"dead in trespasses and sins"* (Ephesians 2:1), but His love has seated us with Him in heavenly places. We were slaves to sin, but His love has made us sons and daughters of God (Galatians 4:4-7). We were condemned, but His love has justified us (Romans 8:1). We were strangers, but His love has brought us near (Ephesians 2:13). The height of His love is a love that elevates us beyond our wildest dreams, granting us a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11), an inheritance incorruptible (1 Peter 1:4), and a place in His eternal kingdom (John 14:2-3).

Conclusion: How Shall We Respond to Such Love?

"We love him, because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19, KJV)

Having glimpsed the breadth, length, depth, and height of Christ's love, how can we remain unchanged? This love demands a response—not out of obligation, but out of overwhelming gratitude. Let us love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). Let us love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34). And let us live as those who are *"rooted and grounded"* in this love, so that the world may see Christ in us and be drawn to His irresistible grace.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us!" (1 John 3:1).