

A. Seven principles for God's love:

1. Because divine love is in his DNA, it is God's nature to love. (I John 4:8)
2. Because he has no hidden agendas or ulterior motives, his love is utterly selfless and sacrificial. (Rom 5:8)
3. Because there is fullness of joy in the presence of God, God loves joyously. It is not a chore, duty, or burden for God to love. (Psalm 16:11)
4. Because he always desires the best for others, God continuously woos others with his love. (Phil 2:4)
5. Because he is secure in who he is, no factors exist that can dissuade God from loving. (John 13:3)
6. Because he understands our human frailty, in his fatherly love God never forgets our weaknesses and our tendency to do the wrong thing. (Psalm 103:14)
7. Because his generosity is so excessive, the Triune God delightedly chose to share their love by bringing the redeemed into their love relationship. (Titus 3:3-7)

Questions:

- 1) What is the first attribute that comes to your mind when you think of God?
- 2) Is it hard for you to love with a pure motive of selflessness? Why or why not?
- 3) Do you often feel joyful in the presence of God? Is there any danger in loving w/o it?
- 4) What keeps you from being committed to others when they are hard to love?
- 5) Do you doubt your security in Christ? Do you forget that you are His child? Why or why not?
- 6) Do you struggle with being too easy on yourself or too hard? How do you maintain a balance?
- 7) What keeps you from sharing His love through you to others? How can we be bolder?

B. In his prayer in Ephesians 3, Paul give us the following:

- (1) The request: "That God would strengthen us..." (3:16)
- (2) First result: "Christ can take up residence in our hearts..." (3:17)
- (3) First Purpose: "We can comprehend..." (3:18a)
- (4) There are four dimensions to that which we are to comprehend: a. Breadth; b. Length; c. Height; d. Depth.
- (5) Second result: "We will be able to grasp the dimensions of Christ's love..." (3:19a)
- (6) Second purpose: "We will be filled with the fullness of God..." (3:19b)
 - 1) Pray and fast for God's strength
 - 2) What closet in your heart are you keeping God from entering in?
 - 3) What changes in your life do you have to make for you to experience more of God's love for you?
 - 4) Spend time thanking the Lord for his grace, mercy, and lovingkindness. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.
 - 5) Have you been too stingy with sharing God's love to others? What are your fears? Ask God to remove them with His perfect love.