Series: That You May Know the Love of God
Message: The Transforming Love of God-The Big Picture
Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10; 5:1-2

Introduction: Over the past two weeks we have begun to look at the wonderful love of God. Our focus verse was from Ephesians 3:14-19 where the Apostle Paul prays that we may know (by experience) the fullness of God’s love. Our desire in these messages is to consider together the love of God. We have seen together that God’s love is a pursuing love and a compelling love. Over the next few weeks we will focus our thoughts on the transforming love of God. In our message today we desire to look at the idea of God’s transforming love from a big picture viewpoint. In the weeks ahead we will consider how God’s love specifically does the transforming of our lives and what our lives look like after being transformed by God’s love.

God’s love transforms us as we trust in Jesus and experience God’s gift of eternal life. The transformation continues as we walk in God’s love. The primary goal of this ongoing transformation is to make us like Jesus in every way. The transformation of God’s love changes who we are and what we believe. God’s love also transforms how we live and what we pursue. We will be exploring these ideas in greater detail in the weeks ahead.

As we continue our big picture view of God’s transforming love we need to consider Biblical examples of people who were transformed by God’s love. Through considering these testimonies we will see how God’s love changed each of them.

Biblical Examples of Transformed People

- All Eleven Apostles – these men went from being ordinary men from a variety of backgrounds to a team of leaders used by God to guide the beginning of the church in the power of the Holy Spirit. Each of them took the Gospel message to faraway places. All but one died as a martyr for the faith.
- The woman at the well in Samaria – John 4:1-42
- The woman caught in adultery – John 8:1-11
- The man possessed by demons living in the graveyard of Gerasene – Mark 5:1-20
- Saul of Tarsus – Acts 9:1-31

Biblical Passages which describe the transforming work of God’s love:

- John 3:3 – “Truly, Truly I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God” – God’s love produces a new birth spiritually which come from God’s love and cannot be earned. To be a part of God’s Kingdom, God’s family requires the experience of transformation.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-“Therefore if any man by in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold new things have come.” The new birth experience places us into Christ.
It joins our lives with the resurrected life of Jesus Christ. This eternal union with Jesus Christ changes our nature. We now have the Holy Spirit of God living within us in our spirit. We have been transformed from sinner to saint, from unrighteous to righteous before God. This transformation does not begin in our behavior. It begins in our spirit. Who we are is first transformed and then it begins to change what we believe, how we live, and what we pursue. Who we are is determined by our being “in Christ”.

Romans 12:1-2 – “I urge you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” – In this passage we begin to see how the transforming work of God’s love desires to continue changing us. We cooperate by faith with the urging of the Holy Spirit and experience God’s renewing of our minds. He has changed who we are and now begins to change what we believe, how we think about everything. This leads to our no longer being conformed like a cookie cutter to reflect the world but instead we become like Christ in how we live and what we pursue. Through our lives we are able to prove or demonstrate the will of God.

Ephesians 2:1-10; 5:1-2 – Read passage from the Bible. Here in our final passage today we see a clear description of our lives before we experience the love of God in salvation and our lives afterwards. Verses 1-3 described our life as dead in our sins. Verse 4 starts with the contrast “But God”. God intervened because of His mercy and His great Love with which He loved us. Verses 5-10 tell us how His love joined our lives to Jesus as we responded to His Grace with faith. We see that once saved we are God’s work project. God’s love changes us to be able to serve His Kingdom with good works. These good works clearly could not lead us to be accepted by God. However, once we are transformed by God’s love, good works of faith are a normal part of our experience.

In the weeks ahead we will be looking together at more details concerning how this transformation actually happens. For today let’s consider a few thoughts and questions seeking to apply the message from God.

Application

God’s love does transform people. Not just the real people of the Bible stories but you and me and others all around us. The same love that transformed the people recorded in the Bible is able to transform people today.

Never give up on the power of God’s love and grace to transform a person. We need to keep sharing the Gospel story because it is the power of God unto salvation.

Do you need to experience the transform power of God’s love today? (Salvation, How you think, How you live, what you are pursuing)

Who do you know that needs to experience the transforming love of God?