



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

4 - Love and Knowledge

Announcements:
8/4 @8:30 -
Sunday School

AUGUST 18-25
Grace Groups
Relaunched!
SEE SIGN UP
SHEETS

REVIEW: Was there anything covered or said on Sunday that you had any questions or comments about?

ICE BREAKER: Do you have a favorite “Love Song”? What is it?

READ: Philippians 1:9-11

AS we noted on Sunday, in this passage Paul not only tells the Philippian church *that* he is praying for them, he goes on to tell them *how* he is praying for them. One of the most interesting parts comes to us in verse 9 when he prays that their love may abound “more and more, with knowledge and discernment.” Today I would like to look at how Love and Knowledge go hand in hand.

The first point that we should make is that, as love increases, so does knowledge. Here we don’t necessarily need to get into theological points (though we could!) and can instead start by just thinking about ourselves and our own lives. For those of us who have ever been in love it seems pretty self evident to say, we want to know the person that we love more and better. Part of what makes the beginning of a relationship so exciting is learning all that you can about a person, but that excitement never really goes away. Because part of what makes a long marriage so beautiful is that you spend the rest of your life getting to know that person better and better. As we increase in love the desire and even ability to know someone more increases. So too we can say with God. As we grow to love him more we also desire more knowledge of who he is and what he has done and what he has called us to! So we can pray that as your love increases your knowledge of God does too!

DISCUSS: In what ways does an increase in love make us desire (and then attain) an increase in knowledge.

The next thought though is a bit of the reverse, and this one only works with God. And that is that as knowledge increases love does as well. With people this is *not* always true. Sometimes we learn things about people that are difficult, and make loving them more difficult (their bad habits, sins, personality flaws, etc). But with God this is never the case. Why? Well the simple (but correct) answer is that God is perfect. So the more of him we know the more of his goodness and perfection we see and the more of him we can love. This is true in general, but also in particular with all the attributes of God. God is infinitely good. So the more I know of his goodness, the more I love, and yet there is still an infinite amount of goodness for me left to ponder and cherish. Same with his love, his sovereignty, his power, justice, the list can go on and on!

DISCUSS: can you think of a time when knowing God better helped you to love him more?

But there is one more point that I would like to make, and that is this: the beauty of Paul's prayer here is that while love can make us know more, and knowledge can help us love more, an increase in both helps us to be more holy! On Sunday we talked about this as “sanctification”. Here Paul’s letter to the Colossian church is helpful.

READ: Colossians 1:9-10

Here’s the point, as you increase love and (in colossians specifically knowledge and understanding) you are equipped to live a life “fully pleasing” to God. Our motivation for service to God is here two fold: It is love and it is knowledge. Both of these push us and then help us to live for God!

DISCUSS: How does love help us live holy lives? How does knowledge (understanding) do the same?