

Beyond Emotion

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

Philippians 1:9

God has created mankind with an abundance of emotions. In just one day's time we can experience joy, sorrow, grief, anger, jealousy and love to name a few. Some emotions are welcomed and warm our soul, while others can make life very unpleasant. The emotion *love* has been the theme of countless songs, and literature, and it takes a prominent place in the Word of God. Probably the most widely known Bible verse John 3:16, deals with God's love for the world. The basis for each of us becoming Christians was the understanding of God's love for us seen through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son for the sins of the world. Receiving God's love greatly impacted our love for Him. The more we delve into God's love, plus having the fruit of His Spirit in our life, deepens our capacity for experiencing and expressing love.

In today's verse, the Apostle Paul speaks about love abounding in knowledge and in judgment. The love that we have for God and others needs to go beyond being just an emotional expression; it needs to grow in knowledge and be governed by judgment (discernment). As believers, our love for God and other people is to abound and our love for brothers and sisters in Christ is to be a witness to all those who observe our Christian interaction. Knowing the love of Christ which passes knowledge allows us to be filled with God's fullness (Ephesians 3:19). As we search the scriptures and allow the truths to sink into our soul, we begin to see more and more the unfathomable depths of God's love. Knowing that Christ willingly left the glories of heaven to come to this cursed and corrupted world, and then carried our sins to the cross. He who knew no sin, became sin for us, so that we could be made the righteous of God. Understanding God's love for us becomes a catalyst to a deeper desire to know Him more. The Apostle Paul understood the depths of his depravity and strove to know the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Often times there are situations where our love needs proper judgment in order to make right decisions. Loving someone does not mean we must always agree with them. Sometimes speaking the truth to others is difficult, but it is necessary, and should always be spoken in Christlike love.

The day we were converted, God began a good work in us that He intends to finish. Each day we are to grow in faith and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we follow Him. May our love abound in knowledge and judgement today.

~J. Ekis