



Sunday, August 19, 2018  
Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to Ephesians 6:21-24**

Love is attributed to God in Scripture perhaps more strongly than any other attribute. The whole plan of redemption, set in motion before time began, was initiated and sustained by the love that God has for His creation. To be sure, it is not that we are intrinsically lovely. Rather, as Martin Luther so famously put it, “the love of God does not find, but creates, that which is pleasing to it.” But nevertheless, God has chosen to set His love on us. And what a glorious thing that is!

That being said, our love for Him (and anyone else, really) is far from the kind of love He demonstrates toward us. God’s love is perfect, unchanging, devoted to the good of others, and praiseworthy. Our love is imperfect (to state it mildly), fluctuates day-by-day, devoted to our own good, and often not much to speak of. But, by His grace, and with the power of His Spirit, we are able to love God truly. We are able to love Him with all of who we are—imperfect though we may be. And it seems the key to loving God (and others) is to understand and relish the love that God has for us.

### **Context**

This passage, as the end of the letter, serves as a final greeting with a benediction. It is not thorough, but it basically sums up the entire argument and Paul’s desire for the church at Ephesus. Paul wants, perhaps more than anything, for his readers to understand the love of God: set in motion before time began, achieving the salvation of dead and lost sinners, reconciling human beings to one another, displaying the glory and the wisdom of God to the spiritual powers and authorities, manifesting itself in the “new people” that God is creating in the Church, and demonstrated particularly in the relationships in the home and workplace, with people girded up for the spiritual battle we are engaged in until Christ comes again.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Armor: Undying Love”

Read Ephesians 6:21-24

6.23 - Peace to all and love with faith...

6.24 - Grace to all who love...

Love from God - source is God

- dominant theme

Love for God - connected to grace – unending

- time: undying

- quality: without corruption

Blaise Pascal      What a vast distance there is between  
knowing God and loving God!

## Discuss

- 1) When you hear the word love used in the broader culture, what are some of the meanings associated with it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Why might someone be tempted to doubt the love that God has for them? How could you minister to a person in that situation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Pastor Don acknowledged that the love of God is unknowable in its entirety (Eph. 3:19), but that we can still deepen in our understanding of it. What is one aspect of God's love that you've come to understand more clearly in the past year?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) How do you know if you truly love God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) How would you minister to someone who claims to be a Christian but shows no evidence of loving God?