

Small Groups @ TBC
Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 4.1.15

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Receiving God's Love

Introduction:

The vision of TBC is simply, to obey the Great Commandment and the New Commandment. We work and pray to be a people that *love God, love one another* and *love our neighbours*, locally and globally. There is however a love that precedes these three loves: God's love for us. "We love, because he first loved us". Knowing and receiving God's love is therefore the foundation for living lives of love, individually and collectively.

Review: (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

In the Ephesians passage, Paul paints a lavish picture of the church as the cosmic display of God's wisdom. He then prays for the Ephesians that they would be *grounded and rooted* in the love of God, that they would *grow* in the love of God and that they would *glow* with the love of God.

Read

Ephesians 3:7-21

Reflect

What *encouraged* you from the talk on Sunday?

Was there anything in the talk that you have been thinking about since?

What is the connection between Paul's vision of the church (7-12) and his prayer for the Ephesians?

Which of the images of God's love did you find it easiest to connect with?

In what ways do you find it easy – or difficult – to receive God's love?

What *questions* did the talk and this reading raise in your mind?

Is there a phrase, line or verse that you find *particularly challenging*?

Respond

Love for God: How might we position ourselves to receive God's love in fuller measure?

Love for One Another: How does being grounded in God's love affect the way we treat one another?

Love for Neighbour & World: How would being "filled to all the fulness of God" (v19) affect our lives of witness in the world?

And Finally...

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?