

THE GIFT OF LOVE

ThanksGifting -- Part 1

November 11, 2007

Ephesians 1:5-7 (NCV) *“Because of His **love**, God had already decided to make us His own children through Jesus Christ. That was what He wanted and what pleased Him, ⁶ and it brings praise to God because of His wonderful **grace**. God gave that **grace** to us freely, in Christ, the One He loves. ⁷ In Christ we are set free by the blood of His death, and so we have **forgiveness of sins**. How rich is God's **grace**.”*

1 John 4:16 (NIV) *“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is love**. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”*

WHY DO MANY PEOPLE AVOID KNOWING GOD?

_____ is why people avoid knowing God!

THREE COMMON FEARS...

FEAR #1: I'll have to give up my _____.

1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV) *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, Who richly **provides us with everything for our enjoyment**.”*

Matthew 11:19 (Phillips) *“Then the Son of Man (Jesus) came, enjoying life...”*

FEAR #2: I'll become a _____.

John 10:10b (TEV) *"I have come in order that you **might have life** -- life in all its fullness."*

FEAR #3: I'll lose my _____.

John 8:36 (TEV) *"If the Son sets you free, then **you will be really free!**"*

I John 4:18a (NIV) *"There is **no fear** in love. But perfect love drives out fear..."*

HOW MUCH DOES GOD LOVE YOU?

Ephesians 3:17-18 (NLT) *"And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how **wide**, how **long**, how **high**, and how **deep** His love really is."*

GOD'S LOVE IS...

1. Wide enough to include _____.

Psalms 145:17 (NIV) *"The LORD is righteous in all His ways and **loving toward all He has made.**"*

John 3:16 (NIV) *"For **God so loved the world** that He gave His one and only Son, that **whoever believes** in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

2. Long enough to last _____.

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV) *“I have loved you with an **everlasting love...**”*

Psalms 89:2 (TEV) *“I know that Your love will **last for all time.**”*

3. High enough to be _____.

Romans 8:39 (NIV) *“Neither **height** nor depth, nor anything else in all creation **will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”*

4. Deep enough to _____ your _____.

Psalms 40:11-12 (TLB) *“O Lord, don't hold back Your tender mercies from me! **My only hope is in Your love and faithfulness.** ¹² Otherwise I perish, for problems far too big for me to solve are piled higher than my head....”*

Deuteronomy 33:27 (NIV) *“The eternal God is your refuge, and **underneath are the everlasting arms...**”*

John 15:13 (NIV) *“Greater love has no one than this, **that he lay down his life for his friends.**”*

Romans 5:8 (TEV) *“God has shown us how much He loves us -- it was **while we were still sinners that Christ died for us.**”*