

# What do you think?

- Which is more important to you: to be *known* or to be *loved*?
- Can we know someone else completely?
- Can we love someone else completely?

# What do you think?

- How are knowing and loving related?
  - Which comes first?
  - Is one more important?

# Emotellect?

- The proper relationship of emotion and intellect
- Even though we might tend toward one or the other we need both

# Living as an Emotellect

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

# Love

- *Phileo* – affection, feeling
  - Friendship; intimacy
- *Agape* - love of the will
  - to esteem; regard with favor, goodwill, benevolence (John 3:16)

# Love

- *Agape* - 1 John 4
  - Received (7)
  - Reciprocated (19, 21)
  - Redirected (7, 11, 21)

# Love

- That your *apage* may abound still more and more
  - They already had some love; he encouraged more
  - *Abound* – superfluous; to excess

# Real Knowledge

- Intellectual perception
  - *Understanding; penetrating*
  - Knower is active in acquiring and applying (2 Pet. 1:2-7; 2:20)



# Real Knowledge

- Intellectual perception
  - ‘Recognizes principles from the Word of God as illuminated by the Holy Spirit’
  - Often connected with conduct (Col. 2:2; Titus 1:1; Heb. 10:26)

# Expositor's Bible Commentary

“Spiritual knowledge, gained from an understanding of divine revelation, enables the believer to love what God commands and in the way he reveals.”

# All Discernment

- Moral perception
  - Practical application of knowledge
  - *Insight* – knowing what to do
  - A mark of maturity – Heb. 5:14
    - Trained by constant use

# Sum it up so far

- Agape wills to do good
- Knowledge knows what is good
- Discernment applies what is good
- “Richard is on fire!”

# So That

- This intelligent, insightful love is not an end in itself
- We are to use that love in real life

# Approve Excellent Things

- *To test or prove the worthiness of a thing*
- Recognize as genuine or authentic after examination
  - James 1:2-3, 12

# Approve Excellent Things

- *Things that differ*
- Test different things to approve of what is excellent or worthy

# Approve Excellent Things

- Distinguish truth from error; decide between *good* and *best*
  - The Word of God is the standard
  - The Holy Spirit is the Illuminator



# Baker Commentary on the Bible

“His petition is for intelligent, insightful love ... [which] enables the child of God to determine what is best, from the Lord’s perspective (v. 10).”

# Sum it up so far

- Love is informed by knowledge and focused by discernment to help us know what is best to do in any situation in life
- It doesn't end there... (*...so that...*)

# Sincere

- *Pure, free from spot or blemish*
- 'able to bear examination in the full splendor of the sun'
- Your inner life can stand up to intense scrutiny

# Blameless

- *Not stumbling against a moral rule*
- No outward offenses
- If you are pure on the inside your life will be blameless on the outside

# Until the Day of Christ

- We will all give an accounting of our lives to Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)
- “This sobering and joyous prospect for the believer should have a purifying effect on his life (1 John 3:3).” EBCNT

# The Fruit of Righteousness

- Better: *the fruit that righteousness produces*
- You reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7f)
- Walk by the Spirit (Gal. 5:13-26)

# Expositor's Bible Commentary

“He is not talking about mere human uprightness measured by outward conformity to law (3:9). He is rather speaking of the spiritual fruit that comes from Jesus Christ, produced in them by the Holy Spirit sent by Christ (Gal 5:22).”

# Through Jesus Christ

- When we live *in* Christ and *like* Christ, He produces His fruit in us
  - John 14-15 (\*15:8)
- Love drives us to know and then use what we know to honor Him
  - 2 Pet. 1:2-11



# To the Glory and Praise of God

- The ultimate goal!
- “We exist to glorify God”
- By putting Him on display
  - By becoming like Him (Matt. 5:48; Eph. 5:1; 1 Cor. 11:1)

# To the Glory and Praise of God

“The goal of all Christian activity is to bring recognition and homage to the divine perfections of a redeeming God.” Wycliffe Bible Commentary

# Sum It All Up

- Love is informed by knowledge and focused by discernment to help us know what is best to do (from God's perspective) in any situation in life

# Sum It All Up

- The more we do what is best the more we become like Christ and manifest God's attributes to the world – Matt. 5:48
- That is real life! -- one that brings glory and praise to God

# So What?

- Is life about God or me?
- Do I *agape* God enough to live like this?
- Am I willing to grow in knowledge?
- Am I willing to use what I learn?