

Enjoying God's Love From A True View

There is a knowing and a seeing from which I will enjoy God's abundant and outrageous love, by which I will be enabled to know what is best, thereby keeping me pure and innocent to the day of Christ, filling me with His understanding and grace — to His glory.

Philippians 1:9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with
Christ and I no longer live, but Christ
lives in me. The life I live in the body,
I live by faith in the Son of God, who
loved me and gave himself for me.
21 I do not set aside the grace of God,
For if righteousness could be gained
through the law,
Christ died for nothing!

Ephesians 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.



2 Corinthians 5:16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

2 Corinthians 5:19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The rest of our life will be about getting used to our true view—from within Christ. When you and I are induced to change our view away from our true vantage point, we suffer. But when we refocus from where we are, the benefits are invigorating and eternal.

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began **a good work in you** will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since **I have you in my heart**; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

Philippians 1:8 **God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.** 9 And this is my prayer: that your love may **abound** more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

There are many things that induce me to lose my view, and love suffers.

- Politics
- People I think are smarter than I am.
- People I think are more successful than I am.
- People who speak and teach better than I do.

There are many things that induce me to lose my view, and love suffers.

- People who have overcome more than I have.
 - Pain
 - Delay
 - Idiots
- Self-righteousness

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

Romans 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

Romans 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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The Service of Reconciliation

1 Corinthians 1:2-9 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— 6 because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

When Paul thought of the Corinthians he first thought of them *as they had become*, not as they *behaved*. He lived by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7), and that provided his view for everyday.

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Paul's first duty was not to the correction of their behavior but to the awakening of their faith in God, who had made them sons.

They needed revival more than they needed restraint.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, *in view of God's mercy*, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, *but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. (*Italics mine.*)

Without the proper “view of God’s mercy,”
nobody rightly offers their body
and nobody has any particular reason
to worship, no matter how we might
scold them.

Instead of first giving them restrictions, Paul gave them revival. Instead of conforming them to proper behavior, he built them up in Christ. His purpose was far higher than changing their behavior – how is that any different from what the world does? Because Paul believed the Corinthians had been made sons of God, his first target was transformation through the renewal of their minds, not by the correction of their behavior.

Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Satan has long been the accuser of the church, and unless you and I build each other up and help each other toward renewal, he'll move us away from the gospel.

Colossians 1:21-23 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish *and free from accusation-- if you continue in your faith,* established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. (*Italics mine.*)

We are the reconcilers.

Grow accustomed to relying upon the unseen when you're with people. It's likely they won't see what you do, but they can – they need to.

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