

“Living Loved”



Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Experiential knowledge produces...

1. Identity
2. Transformation
3. Security
4. Authenticity
5. Obedient 'lovers'

1. Identity

'The disciple whom Jesus loved'
five times in the book of John

(John...13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 21:20)

Is this arrogance?

Is this excluding others?

Is this truth, clearly and simply, being stated?

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love”

St. Augustine

John was not perfect!

He knew he was loved, despite his weaknesses and mistakes.

1. Outburst of anger and desiring vengeance.
 - John and his brother, James, were nicknamed sons of thunder by Jesus (Mark 3:17)
 - John asked to call fire down from heaven to destroy a village that rejected Jesus (Luke 9:54)
2. Selfish (Mark 10: 35-45)
 - He sought special position in Jesus' kingdom

2. Transformation

John had learnt from love.

1 John 3: 11-16 NIV

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother... ¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. ¹⁶ **This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.**

1. John saw love and experienced it first-hand. He was at the crucifixion. John knew it was love, not nails, that kept Jesus on the cross.
2. He was no longer John the fisherman, no longer a “son of thunder.” He was “the one Jesus loves.”
3. People started calling John by a new nickname, “the apostle of love.” That’s who he was, the one Jesus loved.

**“Our identity drives our behavior.
What you do is determined by what
you think of yourself.”**

**Prof. John March
(Identity Model)**

3. Security... *No Doubt*

1 John 5: 13-14 NKJV

¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may **know that you have eternal life**, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God. ¹⁴ Now **this is the confidence** that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

3. Security... No Fear

1 John 4:17-19 NIV

¹⁶ 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 them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that **we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.** ¹⁸ **There is no fear in love.** But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

4. Authenticity

1 John 1: 1-8 NLT

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, **we proclaim** to you the one who existed from the beginning, **whom we have heard and seen**. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. **He is the Word of life... And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life...** ³ We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard ⁵ This is the message we **heard from Jesus and now declare to you**: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. ⁶ So we are **lying** if we **say** we have fellowship with God but **go on living** in spiritual darkness; we are not **practicing** the truth. ⁸ If we **claim** we have no sin, we are only **fooling** ourselves and not living in the truth.

Actual representation of the gospel...

1. True testimony
2. Honest declaration
3. Genuine practice
4. Evidential repentance

“Authenticity is produced in persons who will not entertain self-deceit.”

5. Obedient 'Lovers'

1 John 2: 4-6 NLT

⁴ If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love"

Rooted in love → purpose is realized and executed.

The purpose is to worship and obey God (Ecc. 12:13).

“I am beloved.”

“Living Loved”

