

Five Requests For The Saints

Ephesians 1:15-23

Verses 15/16...

Paul was praising believers at Ephesus for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and Love for all the saints...their faith was real and their love was a love of the will, sacrificially serving others.

Christian love is a generous act of kindness, it is ...

- ***Indiscriminate...for all the saints - Philippians 2:2 maintain the same love...***
- ***Faith and love must be kept in balance;***
- ***Christian love and Christian truth must work together...Biblical love must be based on truth (Ephesians 4:15)...speaking the truth in love.***
 - ***Truth without love is brutal;***
 - ***Love without truth is hypocrisy.***
- ***Biblical love and truth must work with discernment. Philippians 1:9 Moral perspective, insight, practical application of the truth. Christian love is not blind...careful to distinguish between right and wrong. Love must be kept within the banks for truth and discernment.***

The five requests...

1. That we might know Christ/God. (v. 17) ...our greatest need!

The better we know God, the better we know ourselves and others.

a. The knowledge of God must come from God - the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:9-11;

b. God has to reveal Himself to us, only through the process of revelation...self-revelation is essential if we are going to go any further;

c. God reveals Himself to us through the written Word and the living Word. What does he tell us about himself in His Word? Knowing God is the key to coping with all the areas of our live.

2. That we might know our Hope. (18a) ...that we might be preoccupied with our hope

a. The eyes of our heart be enlightened by the Holy Spirit, that we fully realize our identity in Christ;

b. That we fully realize our new identity in Christ, He chose us in eternity past...this is the hope of His calling;

c. This hope is based on truth...we are assured, God promised. We have a great hope and the Holy Spirit helps us to understand that great hope, this eternal future.

3. That we might know our _____ . (8b)

a. .

b. .

c. .

4. That we may know the _____ of Christ. (19, 20)

a. .

b. .

5. That we might know the _____ of Christ (21 -23)

a. .

b. .

c. .