

THE GOSPEL AT WORK: WORK-LIFE BALANCE

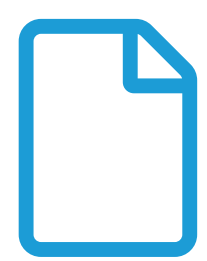


EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
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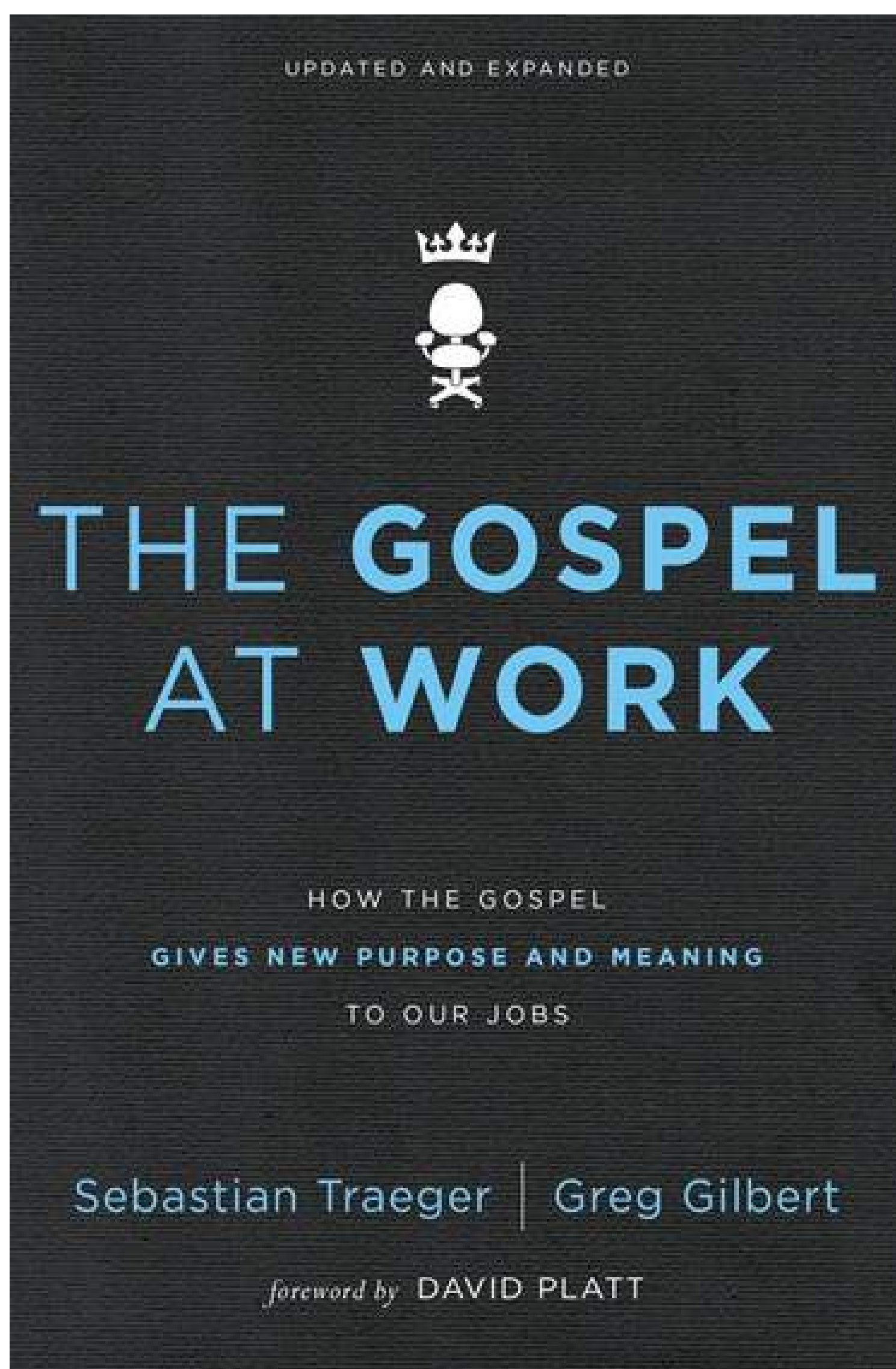


THE GOSPEL AT WORK

Book Review



Review of *The Gospel at Work*



The Gospel at Work by Sebastian Traeger & Greg Gilbert is a helpful examination of how the gospel of Jesus changes our approach to our workplaces. They explore the purpose of work, choosing what job to pursue, determining the work-life balance, adjusting to difficult work situations, leading as a Christian, sacred and secular work and how to share Jesus in our workplaces. Some of the practical examples typify the American culture in which the book was written and must be reimagined in our culture, but the biblical principles are sound and worth meditating upon. Key to the authors' examination is finding the balance between idolatry and idleness - by finding the right mix between faithfulness and fruitfulness. This study explores this concept as a taster for reading the book.

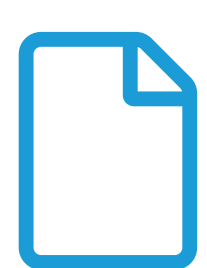
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Introduction

1 in 5 Australians quite their jobs in 2021. The Great Resignation is in part about workers taking the opportunity COVID presented to seek a better work-life balance. How else have you seen people try to achieve a work-life balance?



Big Picture

Working as a Christian is about finding the sweet-spot between faithfulness and fruitfulness.



Bible Passage

While you read – What are the excesses we should avoid as Christians?

We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

2 Thessalonians 3:11-13

...we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Thessalonians 4:10-12



Bible Passage (cont)

*Do not wear yourself out to get rich;
do not trust your own cleverness.*

⁵*Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone,
for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.*

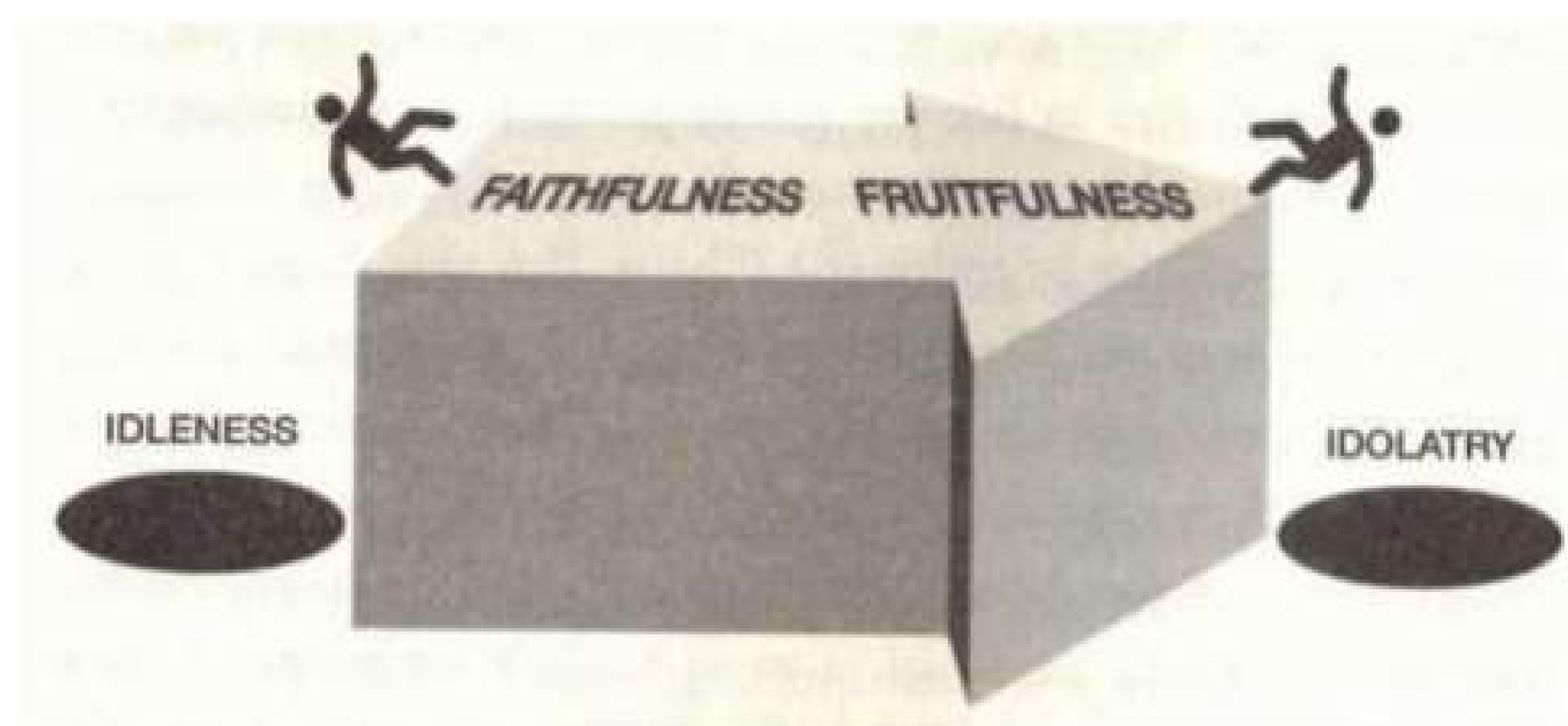
Proverbs 23:4-5



Key Truths

1. The sinful human heart has two extremes when it comes to work - idleness, and idolatry. We either fail to work in such a way that provides for our responsibilities, or we devote ourselves to work so much that it becomes our god.
2. When we perform our work as we are meant to - as our employer expects - and God requires, we are being faithful.
3. When we start performing above and beyond being faithful, we start to become fruitful. This is the difference between doing all that is required of you, and really performing.
4. When our performance at work starts to encroach on our other areas of responsibility - such as family, or church life - we are in danger of falling into idolatry where work is our master, and not the means by which we serve God and others.

Thoughts? Questions?





Application

We all have different capacities and so when it comes to working out our work-life balance as a Christian, there is no one-size fits all answer. What might be faithful for one, will be idleness for another, and what would be fruitfulness for another would be idolatry for someone else. Additionally, we all have different responsibilities - and very few people can be fruitful in more than one sphere of responsibility in their lives, and so being faithful may be all we can achieve. Is there something wrong about being 'only' faithful?

Traeger and Gilbert advise:

1. Work out what it means to be faithful in all of your areas of responsibilities
2. Reflect on yourself against what it means to be faithful (not fruitful)
3. Repent of idolatry and idleness
4. Consider where you might be able to push into fruitfulness

How might working faithfully (or fruitfully) help you to share Jesus at work?

What might it look like to be faithful in your workplace? What would it look like to be fruitful?



Prayer

Pray for discernment. Pray God would make you aware of temptations to be idle and idolatry.

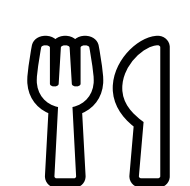
Pray that living faithfully at work would result in a good testimony before your colleagues.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL





Key Truths

1. How do you describe the indescribable love of God? Look at Paul's language, "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep", "to know this love that surpasses knowledge". The love of Christ grips Paul powerfully.
2. The only hope we might have to ever understand Jesus' love is by the power of God (who can do immeasurably more than we imagine) as Christ dwells in our hearts by faith.
3. Understanding Christ's love is so we 'may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.' (v19) The fullness of God is best seen in Jesus. So, the purpose of understanding the love of Christ is that we love others sacrificially – like Jesus.
4. God is to have the glory throughout all generations, this means God's love must be made known to the *next* generation.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

"Until you truly understand the love of Christ, you will never seek to share Jesus. Once you truly understand the love of Christ, you will never stop!"

What do you think?

Paul's prayer reveals the vital need we all have to understand the love of Christ for us.

How are you going in understanding Christ's love?

Once we understand the love of Christ, we can love as Jesus does. What would that kind of love look like in your workplace?



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Prayer

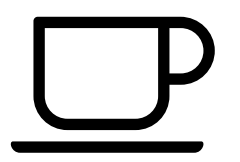
“If we’re to share Christ, we need first to love Christ! We need to ask the Spirit to go to work in our hearts with the gospel, so that we’ll love Christ more and more, and he’ll displace our idols; and so when we talk about what we love, we’ll be talking about him.” Rico Tice, *Honest Evangelism*

Let’s ask God to work in our hearts to understand the love of God for us in Christ in all its fullness.

Ask that God would so capture our hearts, that we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard. (Acts 4:20)

Remember

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GOSPEL

