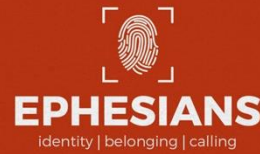


7. CONFIDENT LIVING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Describe a time when having family or friends stay over just got too much. What made it difficult?



Describe a time when the demonstration of someone's love amazed you.

Paul is in isolation. He is under house arrest, chained to a Roman guard awaiting trial before Nero. His friends could visit him, but night and day he was chained to his minder ensuring he would not escape.

He writes letters and he prays a lot. And he writes about his prayers.

Go to break out groups and read Ephesians 3:14-21 – make notes of what strikes you about Paul's prayer (see Paul's other prayer 1:15-23).

1. What questions do you have that arise out of this passage? Discuss as a group.
2. Paul here begins the sentence that he started in verse 1. For what reason does Paul 'fall to my knees and pray'?
3. **Return to the group** and share your findings.
4. When you think of power, what are you thinking of? List what Paul was thinking.
5. When you think of love, what are you thinking of? List what Paul was thinking. (cf Romans 8:31-39)

6. How can we be sure God's power is working through us rather than our own strength?
7. What does Paul mean when he prays 'may you experience the love of Christ' (v 19)?
8. What is the significance of the fact that Christ dwells in our hearts through faith (v 17), and how is this different from our salvation experience?
9. What does John 14:23 say is required in order for Christ/God to be at home in the heart of a believer?
10. What truth is most meaningful to you as you contemplate Paul's prayer for the believers at Ephesus?

Prayer

We're not perfect, Father, but we are yours. We claim your salvation and your grace. We ask you to make us every day into the image of Jesus Christ. Help us to walk this earth in love as he did. We are amazed at such mercy that forgives us time and time again. Thank you. (Max)

Journaling

Take a few moments to record your personal insights from this lesson.

What specific steps can you take today to make Christ more "at home in your heart"?