

# "The Fulness of God's Love"

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## Introduction

The New Testament word for *fullness* is used many times in Scripture. The Greek word for "full" or "fulness" is *pleroma*, and refers to Jesus being full of grace and truth (John 1:14); the fulness of the Gentiles enjoying the Gospel (Rom. 11:12), etc. Paul speaks of the "fulness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13). Earlier in Ephesians 3:19, he wrote of "the love of Christ," that we might be "filled with all the fulness of God." Knowing the love of Christ enables us to enjoy the "fulness of God." One of the qualities of God is His **love**. Every aspect of God's love is known by Christians. If we have the fulness of God, we will have the fulness of His love.

The word and number *ten* is often symbolic of fulness or completeness of something. With this in mind, we would like to point out ten aspects of God's love, with each one beginning with the letter "E."

## Expense

The cost was high. Jesus came to give His life as a ransom price (Mat. 20:28); to shed His blood for remission of sins (26:28). God did not send an angel or pay a material price of redemption, but with something more precious even than gold or silver (1 Pet. 1:18-19). God's love for the sinful world was so great that it was necessary for Deity to take on the form of human flesh and die that the redeemed could live. He gave His only begotten Son that we might not perish but have eternal life (John

3:16). Few would give a son even for a righteous person, but God gave His Son when we were enemies. This is the way He commended His love for mankind (Rom. 5:7-8).

## Expanse

God loved the world, which motivated the sending of Jesus to pay the high price (John 3:16). In this, "the love of God is shed abroad" (Rom. 5:5). God's love has been expanded throughout the world when the Gospel is proclaimed. By AD 63, the Gospel had been proclaimed throughout the world (Col. 1:23). The apostles were to go into all the world and preach to every nation (Mark 16:15-16; Mat. 28:19-20). We used to sing a song titled "The Kingdom is Spreading," as the Gospel went to the heathen nations to make the dark shadows fly. We need to keep expanding the Gospel of the kingdom, no matter the culture or the color of skin.

## Exclusive

It is politically and socially unacceptable to even suggest something that sounds like we are to be exclusive of anyone. However, the love of God's blessings is exclusive. His love is for all but benefits only those who respond to it in obedience (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3). It is for those who "believeth in Him" (John 3:16). The wicked and disobedient who do not respond to God's love are excluded from the promise and hope of eternal life. Those in false religions are excluded (Mat. 15:9). Those who reject Christ and His Word are

excluded (7:21-23; John 12:48). Those who fall away from the faith and cease to abide in Christ will be excluded (Heb. 3:12; Gal. 5:4; John 15:6; 2 John 9). Those who believe in the person of Jesus but deny His doctrines will be excluded (Mat. 7:24; Luke 6:46; 2 John 9). Those in idolatrous religions or terrorist religions will be excluded. Only those who obey Christ will be eternally blessed (Heb. 5:8-9).

## Encroachment

God's love does not seek to compromise with false religions or enemies of the cross, but it encroaches or *intrudes* into any sinful society of lost people. God's love encroached into the wicked life of Saul of Tarsus and brought him to repentance. His love encroaches the lives of the atheists and evolutionists. It encroaches the lives of members of the body of Christ who prefer to follow the world instead of the Scripture. It encroaches the lives of those who love sin rather than God (1 John 2:15-17; 2 Tim. 3:4). It encroaches the lives of those who love money or relatives more than God (1 Tim. 6:9-10). It encroaches those who love the praise of men more than the praise of God, and those who had rather follow the religion of their ancestors rather than the religion of Christ (John 12:42-43; Acts 26:5, 9).

## Excellence

God's love is perfect—without flaw. It is without respect of persons in its offering of salvation to man. God loved all in the world equally. He sent His Son to die for