

What do you think?

- Which is more important to you: to be *known* or to be *loved*?
- Can we know someone else completely?
- Can we love someone else completely?

What do you think?

- How are knowing and loving related?
 - Which comes first?
 - Is one more important?

Emotellect?

- The proper relationship of emotion and intellect
- Even though we might tend toward one or the other we need both

Living as an Emotellect

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

Love

- *Phileo* – affection, feeling
 - Friendship; intimacy
- *Agape* - love of the will
 - to esteem; regard with favor, goodwill, benevolence (John 3:16)

Love

- *Agape* - 1 John 4
 - Received (7)
 - Reciprocated (19, 21)
 - Redirected (7, 11, 21)

Love

- That your *apage* may abound still more and more
 - They already had some love; he encouraged more
 - *Abound* – superfluous; to excess

Real Knowledge

- Intellectual perception
 - *Understanding; penetrating*
 - Knower is active in acquiring and applying (2 Pet. 1:2-7; 2:20)

Real Knowledge

- Intellectual perception
 - ‘Recognizes principles from the Word of God as illuminated by the Holy Spirit’
 - Often connected with conduct (Col. 2:2; Titus 1:1; Heb. 10:26)

Expositor's Bible Commentary

“Spiritual knowledge, gained from an understanding of divine revelation, enables the believer to love what God commands and in the way he reveals.”

All Discernment

- Moral perception
 - Practical application of knowledge
 - *Insight* – knowing what to do
 - A mark of maturity – Heb. 5:14
 - Trained by constant use

Sum it up so far

- Agape wills to do good
- Knowledge knows what is good
- Discernment applies what is good
- “Richard is on fire!”

So That

- This intelligent, insightful love is not an end in itself
- We are to use that love in real life

Approve Excellent Things

- *To test or prove the worthiness of a thing*
- Recognize as genuine or authentic after examination
 - James 1:2-3, 12

Approve Excellent Things

- *Things that differ*
- Test different things to approve of what is excellent or worthy

Approve Excellent Things

- Distinguish truth from error; decide between *good* and *best*
 - The Word of God is the standard
 - The Holy Spirit is the Illuminator

Baker Commentary on the Bible

“His petition is for intelligent, insightful love ... [which] enables the child of God to determine what is best, from the Lord’s perspective (v. 10).”

Sum it up so far

- Love is informed by knowledge and focused by discernment to help us know what is best to do in any situation in life
- It doesn't end there... (*...so that...*)

Sincere

- *Pure, free from spot or blemish*
- 'able to bear examination in the full splendor of the sun'
- Your inner life can stand up to intense scrutiny

Blameless

- *Not stumbling against a moral rule*
- No outward offenses
- If you are pure on the inside your life will be blameless on the outside

Until the Day of Christ

- We will all give an accounting of our lives to Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)
- “This sobering and joyous prospect for the believer should have a purifying effect on his life (1 John 3:3).” EBCNT

The Fruit of Righteousness

- Better: *the fruit that righteousness produces*
- You reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7f)
- Walk by the Spirit (Gal. 5:13-26)

Expositor's Bible Commentary

“He is not talking about mere human uprightness measured by outward conformity to law (3:9). He is rather speaking of the spiritual fruit that comes from Jesus Christ, produced in them by the Holy Spirit sent by Christ (Gal 5:22).”

Through Jesus Christ

- When we live *in* Christ and *like* Christ, He produces His fruit in us
 - John 14-15 (*15:8)
- Love drives us to know and then use what we know to honor Him
 - 2 Pet. 1:2-11

To the Glory and Praise of God

- The ultimate goal!
- “We exist to glorify God”
- By putting Him on display
 - By becoming like Him (Matt. 5:48; Eph. 5:1; 1 Cor. 11:1)

To the Glory and Praise of God

“The goal of all Christian activity is to bring recognition and homage to the divine perfections of a redeeming God.” Wycliffe Bible Commentary

Sum It All Up

- Love is informed by knowledge and focused by discernment to help us know what is best to do (from God's perspective) in any situation in life

Sum It All Up

- The more we do what is best the more we become like Christ and manifest God's attributes to the world – Matt. 5:48
- That is real life! -- one that brings glory and praise to God

So What?

- Is life about God or me?
- Do I *agape* God enough to live like this?
- Am I willing to grow in knowledge?
- Am I willing to use what I learn?