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Love:

Inclusive Love

"depth and height"

Ephesians 3: 18.

by Richard A. Bennett

Dear Prayer Supporter,

"Inclusive Love" is the third chapter of the ongoing series, *"The Love of God."* We trust you will prayerfully read and share with Christian friends. Thank you for your gifts and prayers enabling us to reach precious peoples.

Little did we know, when ministering in Meru, Kenya, that one day we would be broadcasting in the **Kikuyu language**. This heart language is used from the "Stick Ladies" to the President of Kenya.

"Dorothy's Daily Devotional" is having the highest daily response. (Please read further details under **"Testimonies"** on our upgraded website: www.ccim-media.com). Our Kikuyu signature chorus is: "Talk to me Lord, I have opened my heart for You! I will do what You want!"

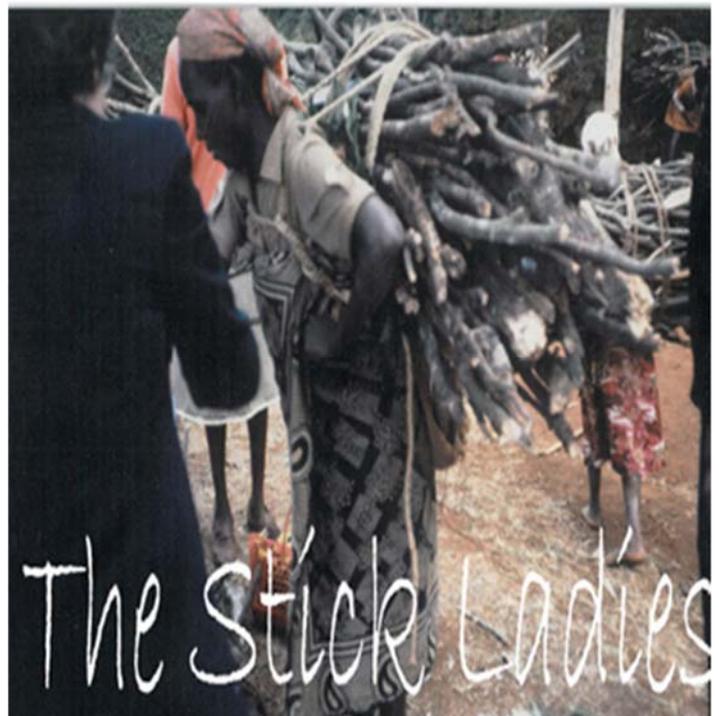
In His Love,

CCIM ministering God's love through broadcasts, Bibles and literature in the Kikuyu language.

***Waruguru**, I praise God for *"Dorothy's Daily Devotional"* because the Lord has been speaking to me through it. I am now a changed person. I am stronger in Christ and even able to witness to others and preach the good news. Before this program I was never able to do any of this. Thank you for praying with me.

***Ngwaci**, God had been ministering to me through Kikuyu *"Dorothy's Daily Devotional"* and my whole family is blessed. Also, this has become my best time to be in the presence of God. God Bless you.

***Serah Mbu**, *"Dorothy's Daily Devotional"* is an amazing program that is teaching the Word of God in a way that I have never heard before. Please continue teaching us. As God blesses you, you will be a blessing to us!



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The Love of God

1. Incomprehensible Love
2. Inclusive Love Part I
- breadth, and length
3. Inclusive Love Part II
- depth, and height
4. Insightful Love
5. Incomparable Love
6. Incontestable Love
7. Inductive Love
8. Influential Love

In the previous chapter of [Inclusive Love](#), we considered both the historic and geographic dimension of *The Love of God—breadth and length*. In this second part, we will reflect upon the hypostatic and organic—*depth and height*.

These are two of the four wonders of God’s amazing love we are able to comprehend that you, “*May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ*” Ephesians 3:18.

DEPTH: His hypostatic love. The hypostatic nature of the Lord Jesus Christ means that the invisible God became visible in the person of God the Son. As Man, Jesus was perfect but He was never ever less than God. The Bible states: “*God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man.*” James 1:13.

But Jesus is God and Jesus **was** tempted. He was tempted as a perfect Man. In His victory over Satan He revealed to man what God created man to be. As God, He revealed to man Who God is, “*from everlasting to everlasting*” Psalm 103:17.

The astonishing truth is this God introduced Himself to mankind through the womb of a virgin. When the Virgin Mary asked the angel Gabriel “*How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?*” Gabriel answered: “*The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: Therefore also that Holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be*

called the Son of God” Luke 1:34,35.

Yes, “*Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God, thought it not to be robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow*” Philippians 2:6-10. What condescension!

From God to Man, from Man to servant-hood, from servant-hood to obedience, from obedience to the Cross. Then from resurrection and ascension to the Throne of the universe. Oh the depth of God’s love enabling us to restore our broken fellowship with the Eternal God.

Equally astonishing is the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit as God is still bringing to birth His Church! “*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body*” 1 Corinthians 12:13.

This dramatic implication is: “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life*” Romans 6:3,4.

“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him” 1 Cor. 12:18. This body of Christ, the true Church, is inclusive in composition, but it is also exclusive in character.

Inclusive in composition. The true Church knows no class limitation, no capacity limitation and no color limitation. Poor and rich; uneducated and educated; old and young; red, yellow, black and white are welcomed into the fellowship of the Church.

Exclusive in character. However, membership in the body of Christ is not open for people who are not born again. All true members of the body of Christ are sinners saved by grace.

Sometimes, in an effort to popularize and grow a church, well-meaning pulpit committees will look for people with attractive personalities, musical talents, theological degrees. And, if a person of financial resources can be introduced to the Board, that will make the church more important.

The Lord Jesus did not die to Christianize the flesh and then to set it in service for Him. He came to crucify the flesh! Only then His ministry in the Church will be demonstrated by His resurrection Life, His redeeming love, and His heavenly wisdom.

There is often too much ‘grit’ and not enough ‘oil’ in the function of many church structures and mission agencies. Human ambition, pride, selfish preference and discord will quench the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ: *“Therefore, if any man be **in Christ**, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* 2 Corinthians 5:17. It is important to realize, that being in Christ, we have not been left to lift ourselves up by our own ‘bootstraps.’ Neither are we expected to hold everything together by psychological ‘Band-Aids.’ The phrase, *“in Christ,”* is repeatedly mentioned in the New Testament and is a topic of no small importance.

HEIGHT: His Organic Love: *“Know ye not that your bodies are members of Christ?”* 1 Corinthians 6:15. In Christ, we have been *“raised up together, and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”* Ephesians 2:6.

Being assured that we are *“in Christ,”* from this heavenly perspective, faith rejoices that, what is under the feet of Jesus, is also under our feet because we are in Him! When Peter stepped out of the fishing boat to walk on water, the waves that threatened Peter were already under the feet of Jesus. Because we have been baptized into the body of Christ, the threatening waves of a world-in-crisis are already under the feet of the Risen Christ and therefore under our feet. *“and the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly”* Romans 16:20.

Facing daily testing, whether social; financial; the loss of a loved one, or, the lust of the flesh, to *“walk by faith, not by sight”* (2 Corinthians 5:7) is to appropriate the fact that we do not fight a fight that could be lost, but we enjoy a victory in the Risen Lord that has been secured forever. Either we live by faith or we die by unbelief. The turbulent waves of the 21st century that increasingly threaten and seek to destroy the Church are already under the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ. Are we in Him? Yes! Yes! Yes! So when we know we are in Him, the waves that are under His feet, are also under our feet. We are already *“in heavenly places.”* From the perspective of reigning *“in life by One, Jesus Christ”* (Romans 5:17) as we praise Him, we are on top of any challenging circumstances as they are already under our feet in Him. That is the life of faith!

As the late Vernon McGee frequently quoted: *“In Christ I died; in Christ I rose; in Christ I triumphed o’er my foes; in Christ in heaven I took my seat; and heaven rejoiced at hell’s defeat.”*

Spiritual Check Up

* Do I see a problem in every opportunity, or, knowing I am *‘in Christ,’* do I see an opportunity of proving His sufficiency in every problem?

* Though an atheist says he does not believe in God, and acts accordingly, do I, who professes belief that Christ was manifest in the flesh and that I am in Him, act any different from the atheist?