

Crazy Love – Study Guide

Chapter 3: Crazy Love

Love and Fear?

These two words, “love” and “fear” seem unlikely to be placed together, unless we are talking about God. The following is how Paul Tripp defines love. “Love is willing sacrifice for the good of another that does not demand reciprocation or the person being loved is deserving.” The Bible teaches Christians that, “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers” (1 John 3:16). Christ laid down His life so that we may live.

Now on the other hand Jerry Bridges defines the fear, in particular, the fear of God as “reverential awe.” He concludes that the fear of God includes three elements, “*respect* (which toward God means reverence) in recognition of His infinite worth and dignity; *admiration* of His glorious attributes; and *amazement* at His infinite love” (*The Joy of Fearing God*, 26). When we have the fear of God, it leads to a genuine love of who God is and what He means to our lives. The fear of Him draws us to loving Him more. When we are amazed with whom God is and what He has done for us, it should amaze us and cause us to “love” Him and live for Him in a “crazy” way!

For Your Mind

1. Write down the main point of the chapter.
 - a.
2. Turn in your Bible to Ephesians 2:1-10 and read through the passage. Don’t rush, but take your time to soak in all the tremendous truths found in these verses.
 - a. Next, re-read verses 1-3.
 - i. In these three verses, Paul is painting such a dramatic picture of the life a person lives when he or she does not know Jesus Christ. Write down a few words or phrases that describe humans before coming to faith.
 - b. Now read verses 4-7.
 - i. Circle or highlight the first two words in verse 4, “But God.” These two words provide the transition from a life that was dead, to a life that is living.
 - ii. Write down the words used to describe God.

- iii. Now underline the title “Christ” in these four verses. Take a few minutes to praise Jesus for what He gave you as a result of Him giving up His life.
- c. Finish by reading verses 8-10.
 - i. Complete the phrases:
 1. V. 8 – For _____
 2. V. 9 – That _____
 3. V. 10 – For _____
 4. V. 10 – That _____

For Your Heart

3. Hop onto the Internet and go to www.crazylovebook.com and click onto the “videos” section and hit “Chapter 3” and watch.
 - a. What are five words or phrases that come to mind when you think of your earthly father?
 - b. Has your view of your Heavenly Father been affected (positively and/or negatively) by your view of your earthly father? If so, in what way?
 - c. Did the video of Francis and his son, give you a better picture of your Heavenly Father’s love for you?
 - d. Now how about your Heavenly Father? Pick one word to describe your relationship with your heavenly Father. Does your “one word” reflect a reality you’re pleased with or one you’re disappointed in? If you’re pleased, then great! But if not, what one word would describe the way you’d like it to be?
4. Francis writes,
 - a. “The Good News—the best news in the world, in fact—is that you can have God Himself. Do you believe that God is the greatest thing you can experience in the whole world? Do you believe that the Good News is not merely the forgiveness of your sins, the guarantee that you won’t go to hell, or the promise of life in heaven? The best things in life are gifts from the One who steadfastly loves us. But an important question to ask ourselves is this: Are we in love with God or just His stuff?” (62).

- b. Ask yourself and answer the question, “Are you in love with God or just His stuff or just what benefits you?”

For Your Life

- 5. If you ever dated someone, you remember how you would want to spend every waking moment talking to and being with that person if you could. Francis speaks about how we should be so in love with Jesus because of Jesus’ crazy love for us. If we do not understand God’s love for us, shown through Jesus, then chapters 4 through 10 will only be a nice read without leading to lasting change.
 - a. Do you remember when you “got it”? When you first realized you loved God with all your heart, mind, and soul? Write about that time.
 - b. Ask God to grow within you a heart that loves Him more.

Challenge for the Week

Commit to memorizing Ephesians 2:4-5. Write it down on a post-it note, an index card, on a piece of paper and put one on your mirror in your bathroom, one on your car dashboard, and one next to your computer monitor.

How amazing to think that all of us will be meditating on these two verses this week. As we do so, commit to contacting someone in your small group about God’s great love for them. Remind them by sending an email, a text, a phone call, or a card.