

## **Rooted in Jesus**

Ephesians 3:16-18; John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:9-11; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 John 3:16-18;  
Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 1:9; Colossians 3:12-14.

Redwood trees have a remarkable root system. They have no taproots like most trees. They do have what are known as “lateral roots,” which can travel outward for huge distances – intertwining with the roots of other redwood trees to add support and strength. “Redwoods do for each other what they can’t do alone.”

Ephesians 3:16-18 How we act and interact with others is the very sinew of the “roots” we spread as Jesus followers. So, how do we grow healthy roots - established in love - that bring life, health, healing, and strength to those around us?

### **Healthy Roots Grow When We Love One Another Unconditionally**

John 13:34-35 Just as redwoods intertwine their roots to strengthen and uphold each other, so Jesus needs us, His disciples to hear and understand that we need to love each other. In this way we can be “rooted and established in His love.”

Do you ever wonder if Jesus’ words that night made a difference in their life? According to the New Testament, their words and actions affirmed that it did make a difference. 1 John 4:9-11

### **Healthy Roots Grow When We Love One Another Sacrificially.**

Philippians 2:5-8 It should be obvious to us that Jesus loved sacrificially, but is it? Sometimes something can become so familiar that it loses its impact or poignancy.

Jesus, being the very nature of God, made himself **NOTHING**. Born in a manger. A helpless baby. Reliant upon newly minted parents for his care. King Jesus, taking on “the very nature of a servant.” Obedient to death. So here, Paul implores those who bear the name ‘Christian’ to put on this same mindset. To love sacrificially. To humble ourselves on behalf of other believers. And to love with the heart, mind, and soul of Jesus, who willingly “made himself nothing” on behalf of His people.

The apostle John affirms just how far and wide our roots of faith should be encouraged to grow. 1 John 3:16 You may be called to lay down your life for a fellow believer, but it could mean something else.

1 John 3:17-18 Healthy roots grow when we love one another ***unconditionally*** and when we love one another ***sacrificially***.

### **Healthy Roots Grow When We Love One Another Forgivingly**

Ephesians 4:32 The church in Ephesus needed encouragement in this area. They had not always lived up to those words. So, Paul reminded them of the importance of forgiveness in the life of this young church. It desperately needed healthy roots, and without forgiveness, those roots could not grow and intertwine. We, too, need that reminder. To forgive. As well as the reminder of “Why.” **We are to forgive just as, in Christ, God forgave us.**

Can you recall the first time you were forgiven for something by someone other than a parent?

1 John 1:9 tells us the importance of confessing our sins.  
Colossians 3:13 God asks us to pass forgiveness on to those around us.

### **Rooted In Love**

Colossians 3:12-14 A hurting and dying world will see Jesus when they see us in the church loving each other in an unconditional, sacrificial, and forgiving way. They will know that they are our disciples if we love each other as Christ loved us.

When Brandon and the surrounding area discovers how we love each other, they will be attracted to us and to Christ. If they see Christ in us, they will be more open to hearing the good news of Jesus Christ.

May we be about growing the healthy, healing, supporting roots of love that Jesus shared on the cross