

## Ephesians 3:14-21

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 8-19-15

### Context

1. New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)
2. **The New Society** (2:11-3:21)
3. New Standards - unity and purity (4:1-5:21)
4. New Relationships (5:21-6:24)

### Paul's Second Prayer

Follows the pattern of Christ (John 13-17)

Introduction (vv. 14-16a)

- "For this reason..." (v. 14)
  - Important principle: The basis of prayer is knowledge of God's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Scripture \_\_\_\_\_ our prayers.
- "I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name" (vv. 14b-15)
  - Not "every family" in the world (remember, "one family" of 4:6)
  - Rather, "the \_\_\_\_\_ family" of God
  - "derives its name" - family name indicates the possession of all the rights and privileges belonging to that family

Substance of the Prayer (vv. 16b-19)

1. "Strengthened with might"
  - "through his Spirit...Christ may dwell"
    - The works of the second and third Persons of the Trinity are never \_\_\_\_\_ from one another
    - "I have the Holy Spirit" = "Christ dwells in my heart" (cf. John 14:16-18; Rom. 8:9-11)
  - Praying for a greater \_\_\_\_\_ of the indwelling presence of Christ
    - Not temporarily inhabitation, but permanent abode
    - Trinity and sanctification!
2. "Rooted and grounded in love"
  - The primary work of the Trinity = to make our hearts perfect in love
  - What the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ and is what \_\_\_\_\_ the people who are his temple
3. "Knowing Christ's love"
  - Strength to love AND comprehend Christ's love - go together
  - To understand its full \_\_\_\_\_ ("breadth and length and height and depth")
    - Broad enough to encompass all mankind (both J and G)

- Long enough to last for eternity
    - Deep enough to reach even the most degraded sinner
    - High enough to raise us into heaven
    - Ancient commentators connected this verse to the \_\_\_\_\_
  - Comprehend “with all the saints”
    - It is within the \_\_\_\_\_ that it is fully known
  - This love “surpasses knowledge”
    - Same word in 1:19 and 2:7 applied to God’s power and grace
    - His love is as unknowable as his riches are unsearchable
4. “Filled up to God’s fullness”
- More accurately: “filled unto the fullness of God”
    - Be holy as God is holy, perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect (cf. I Pet. 15-16; Matt. 5:48)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s work - to become like Christ

Conclusion (vv. 20-21)

- Will we second guess God, “who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think”?
  - His power is able to do far more than we could ever imagine...*abundantly!*
    - Gk. word is a super-superlative: “infinitely more”
- This power is at work in us individually and us as his church
- Only a doxology is appropriate: “to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever”
  - The power comes \_\_\_\_\_ him, the glory goes back \_\_\_\_\_ him

**Letting Scripture inform your prayers, pray for one another and our church tonight**