

Ephesians 3:14-21 - Gospel

Big Idea: Our walk with Christ is dependent on the power of the Spirit and an ever-increasing experience of the endless love of Christ.

Outline

1. **Paul's Posture**
2. **Paul's Petitions**
3. **Paul's Praise**

Paul's Posture

[14] For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

Paul's Petitions

Petition #1

[16] that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

Result #1

[17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith

Petition #2

[17]...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

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Brennan Manning, *The Furious Longing of God*

“Lofty thoughts and impersonal concepts left my lousy self-image intact and my way of praying unchanged. Until the love of God that knows no boundary, limit, or breaking point is internalized through personal decision; until the furious longing of God seizes the imagination; until the heart is conjoined to the mind through sheer grace, nothing happens...The wild, unrestricted love of God is not simply an inspiring idea...The revolutionary thinking that God loves me as I am and not as I should be requires radical rethinking and profound emotional readjustment.”

D. A. Carson, *The Call to Spiritual Reformation*

“Do you see the stunning implication? Paul assumes that we cannot be as spiritually mature as we ought to be unless we receive power from God to enable us to grasp the limitless dimensions of the love of Christ. We may think we are peculiarly mature Christians because of our theology, our education, our years of experience, our traditions; but Paul knows better. He knows that we cannot be as mature as we ought to be until we ‘know this love that surpasses knowledge.’”

Paul’s Praise

[20] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

How do we respond?

1. Pray this prayer for our church family
2. Enjoy the benefits of the gospel
3. Share with one another
4. Repent