

Ephesians 3:14-21

Prayer for a Deeper Experience of God's Fullness

1. In verses 14 and 15 Paul says, "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name."
 - a. What is "this reason"? (cf. 3:1)
 - b. What exactly is "his whole family in heaven and on earth"?

Does this expression have any implications for how we view the church and live as members of it? If so, what?

Does this expression have any implications for how we treat other churches?
 - c. What exactly is the "name" of this family?

How is this name derived from the Father?

Is there a connection here to the Old Testament genealogies, where it was so important in Israel to be part of a family, and to keep the family name alive?
 - d. Why does Paul say that he "kneels" before the Father instead of simply saying, "I pray..." as in 1:16?

What is the proper posture for prayer?
2. Paul prays that the Ephesians may be strengthened through the Spirit in their "inner being." Why not their "outer being"?
3. From verse 17:
 - a. What does it practically mean "to be rooted and established in love"?
 - b. Is it possible to know how high and wide and deep the love of Christ is, without being rooted and established in love?
4. Paul prays in verse 18 that we may have power "together with all the saints" to grasp the extent of Christ's love. How would the saints of previous generations help us today in grasping the extent of Christ's love?
5. What is the "fullness of God" to which Paul prays the Ephesians may be "filled to the measure"? (cf. Ephesians 1:23)
6. Why does Paul add the phrase "according to his power that is at work within us" in verse 20? Wouldn't it have been sufficient to say "God, who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine"?

For further discussion:

7. Can God be called “Father of all people”? (Ephesians 3:15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; James 1:17) If so, why do we say “*our* Father” in the Lord’s Prayer?
8. Where does the custom of a kneeling bench, just for weddings, come from?

J VanWoudenberg