

Rooted in Love

Reflections on Ephesians 3.14-21

The Structure of the Letter

- **Part 1: Laying down the Theology (1-3)**
 - Prologue (1.1-2)
 - Praise to God for everything he has given to those in Christ (1.3-14)
 - Commendation to readers for their faith (1.15-23)
 - Relationship to God before and after entering Christ (2.1-10)
 - The state of Union between Jews and Gentiles (2.11-22)
 - Further reflection on the Mystery of this Union (3.2-13)
 - Final prayer (3.14-21)
- **Part 2: Living the Theology everyday (4-6)**

The logo for 'Flourish' features the word 'Flourish' in a red, cursive script font. Above the letter 'i' is a stylized orange and red leaf or flame-like graphic. The logo is positioned on a red background that has a white wavy border at the top.

Flourish

Ephesians 3.14-17

Because of this I bend my knees

Because of what?

- **What God has already done**
 - **The formation of a new relationship with God**
 - **and between Jews and Gentiles**
-
- **For this reason, Paul prays so that the Ephesians can know the reality of what already exists.**



Ephesians 3.14-17

**Because of this I bend my knees before the Father
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is
given a name**

Play on words

- **Greek word for Father = Pater/ Word used here for family = Patria**
- **Families literally get their name from the Father - But not the kind of families we have in mind**
- **Patria were large , tribal groupings, sometimes even nations – importance of this Jews and Gentiles**
- **God gives us identity**



Ephesians 3.14-17

Because of this I bend my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is given a name so that he might give to you, according to the wealth of his glory, to be made strong with power through his Spirit in the inner person

...to be made strong

- **Strengthened with power – is almost saying the same thing twice for emphasis;**
- **Often used outside the NT for strength training through exercise**



Ephesians 3.14-17

Because of this I bend my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is given a name so that he might give to you, according to the wealth of his glory, to be made strong with power through his Spirit in the inner person so that Christ might dwell through faith in your hearts, you who are rooted and founded in love,

So that

- **The reason why God will strengthen us is not so that we will be strong**
- **But so that Christ can dwell within us; the word for dwell has the idea of take up permanent residence – as opposed to drop in from time to time**



Rooted and Founded



Flourish

The Structure of the prayer

I pray, that God will make you strong, so that Christ will dwell permanently in your hearts, rooted and founded in love, this will enable you

- **TO grasp the width, length, height and depth AND**
- **TO know the unknowable love of Christ**
- **SO THAT you might be filled up to the fullness of God**



Ephesians 3.17-19

so that you might be able to grasp,

Might be able

- **Strong enough, have the power, be able**
- **A different verb to 'make you strong' but a clear connection**
- **When Christ dwells in your hearts you will be strong enough to grasp...**



Ephesians 3.17-19

so that you might be able to grasp, together with all the saints, the width and the length and the height and the depth,

To grasp

- **To grasp – ‘John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.’**
- **Together with all the saints - corporate**
- **The dimensions of what? – most obvious Christ’s love**

The logo for 'Flourish' features the word in a red, cursive script. Above the letters 'i' and 'r' are stylized, golden-brown leaves or branches, giving it a natural, organic feel. The logo is positioned in the lower-left corner of the slide, partially overlapping a red decorative wave at the bottom.

Flourish

Ephesians 3.17-19

so that you might be able to grasp, together with all the saints, the width and the length and the height and the depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,

Grasp and know

- **the width and the length and the height and the depth**
- **the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge**



Ephesians 3.17-19

so that you might be able to grasp, together with all the saints, the width and the length and the height and the depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you might be filled up with all the fullness of God.

Filled up with the fullness of God

- **Not easy to understand but almost certainly means something like – be filled with the entirety of who God is**
- **The God who created the world, redeemed it and sustains it AND who has created unity**



Ephesians 3.20-21

And now to the one who is able to do above all things and beyond all measure everything that we ask or understand according to the power that is at work among us. To him glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever Amen.

Ephesians 3.14-17

Because of the glorious unity that now has been established in Christ, I bow down low in prayer before the God who loves us like a father and gives us our identity, begging that he will make you strong, out of the immense wealth of who he is, with power through the Spirit deep within so that Christ can take up permanent residence in your hearts through faith,



Ephesians 3.17-19

You who have put your roots down and found your firm foundations in love, might then be able to wrap your mind around the immensity that is Christ and his love and know the unknowable so that God can fill you to the brim with the fullness of who he is.



Ephesians 3.20-21

And now to the one who is able to do more than we can find words to express, more than we can ask for or even hold in our heads, according to the power that works constantly in our midst, glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus as long as there are human beings to praise him starting now and going on for ever.

AMEN!!

