

I) **V14 INTRO: For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**

II) **When we began our study, I mentioned that Ephesians can be divided into three parts**

Sit, Walk, Stand

III) **In the first three chapters Paul shared about what we have and who we are in Jesus**

Eph 1:3 we are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

IV) **In Ch. 1:20 He went on to say that God had raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places**

V) **Finally, he went on to say in Eph 2:6 (that God) raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**

VI) **In God's mind we are presently raised up and seated in the heavenly places
It is from this vantage point that we live our lives as His followers**

VII) **By God's grace through faith we are saved, and by His grace we perform good works**

It doesn't matter if we are Jewish or Gentile, in Christ we have been made one in Him

VIII) **As gentiles we were without Jesus, aliens from Israel, strangers from the covenants**

But now, because of Jesus we have access by one Spirit to the Father

IX) **We are now fellow citizens and members of the household of God**

We are heirs of the same body, partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel

This is an incredibly wonderful revelation, and it is intended to strengthen our faith

X) **These blessings are immense, and are to be communicated to believers**

This is something that bible teachers should consistently share with the people

XI) **The purpose of bible studies is to divide God's word rightly to edify Christians**

Ac 20:32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace,

which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

XII) There are those who think the bible is outdated and out of step with the time
Wisdom has no expiration date

Ro 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

XIII) The enemy of our souls would keep us blind and in spiritual confusion and darkness

Believers need to know who they are in Jesus

I) It's also important for believers to live like they know who they are in Him
When a Christian's life changes, it is evidence that they understand what is taught

II) True biblical understanding will always be revealed by a life that is changing
Information should lead to assimilation which produces transformation
Jas 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

III) In this passage Paul prays that believers will respond to what they have in Him
He also prays that God will provoke them to respond to what they are being taught

IV) This is his second prayer recorded in Ephesians
The first prayer is recorded in Ch 1:17-23

V) There he prayed that they would know the blessings that God had bestowed on them

Eph 1:17-19 (He prayed) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

VI) Here he prays that believers will use the power that God has given them to live for Him

VII) The heart of Paul's petition can be found in V19
Paul prays that they may know the love of Christ which passes

knowledge

VIII) To know the love of Christ: To know absolutely; to perceive, to be sure of, to understand

IX) Why would he pray that they may know the love of Christ
It is not love for Christ that he is praying for, but that we may know the love of Christ

X) When we know that God loves us, it from the inside, urges and impels us to serve Him
When we realize that we were once dead but are now alive, it motivates our service
2 Co 5:14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

XI) The heart of living for God begins with perceiving how much Jesus loves you
This is why Paul prays in this manner for the Ephesians

XII) God must reveal His love for us for us to come to realize that He is a God of love
Simply living and gaining life experiences will not reveal this to us
In fact, sometimes our life experiences might lead us to the opposite conclusion

I) Sometimes life seems unfair, harsh, hurtful, disappointing, and unjust
Because of this we can even come to think that He hates us and is angry with us
Ps 13:1 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?
Job 13:24 Why do You hide Your face and consider me as Your enemy?

II) On one hand, before we came to faith in Him God had justifiable anger towards us
Ps 7:11 God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day
Jn 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

III) To reveal His love for us He did the unthinkable
To save us from suffering His wrath filled judgment He sent His Son to rescue us
Ro 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Jn 3:16)

1 Jn 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

IV) To serve God with sincerity begins by knowing that He loves us deeply

V) V14 picks up from V1, where Paul began with the words For this reason

**VI) V14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
For this reason speaks of God providing power for us to live for Him**

**VII) This is because we are the dwelling place of God
Eph 2:21 (he wrote that we are) growing into a holy temple in the Lord
Eph 2:22 you are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the
Spirit**

**VIII) His response to such blessings is worship and submission: I bow my knees
Ps 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the
Lord our maker.**

**IX) Because we are the dwelling place of God, Paul prays that we might walk in
His power**

**The thought that God and His power might dwell in frail and broken
vessels is amazing
Because of this, Paul prays that believers might come to realize this**

X) V15 From whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named

**XI) BRIEFLY: This is not teaching the "Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of
man"**

**That is a teaching that is not found in scripture
God is not the Father of those who reject Him**

**I) In the NT people are spoken of as God's children, or Satan's children
1 Jn 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are
obvious; anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who
does not love his brother**

**II) We are not born God's children, but because of our sin nature we are God's
enemies**

**Ro 5:8-10 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we
were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood,
how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we
were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how**

much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Col 1:21 You... once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works

III) To become His children requires repentance and a trusting in His grace by faith

At that time, we become adopted children in His family (Eph 2:19)

Jn 1:10-13 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God

IV) V15 From whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named

These are saints of every age from those in heaven to those who are still alive on earth

V) V16 That He would grant you according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with

That He would grant you reveals Paul's understanding of prayer

VI) The Christian understanding of prayer speaks of utter dependence on God

Jn 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches: He who abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing

VII) HIS PRAYER: That He would grant you according to the riches of His glory

VIII) I mentioned before that there is a difference in giving out of or according to ones riches

To give out of one's riches is simply to take something and give it away
An example would be Elon Musk: his personal worth is roughly \$243

billion

He gives away \$100 million dollars to charity, which leaves him \$242.9

billion

IX) This is a great sum of money: Yet he is a multi-billionaire

He has given a great sum out of his incredible riches

If he gave \$10 Billion to his favorite charity, he has given according to his riches

Which simply means that he has given in proportion to the ability he has to give

I) Paul's prayer is that God would give according to His divine resources

For God to do so would be incredible because God's resources are inexhaustible

II) He has already spoken of the resources of God that have been made available to us

Eph 1:19 speaks of the exceeding greatness of His power toward us

Eph 2:4 reveals the riches of His mercy and the greatness of His love for

us

Eph 2:7 speaks of the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward

us

Eph 3:10 reveals His manifold wisdom that might be made known by the

church

III) Paul desires Christians to live in spiritual richness and not in spiritual poverty

His desire is for Christians to receive spiritual blessings lavishly

provided by our Father

THE QUESTION IS: How can this be possible?

He begins to pray specifically for the Ephesian believers

IV) V16 That He would grant you according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened

May God's Holy Spirit strengthen you in the deepest portion of your inner being

V) We possess what has been called an outer man and an inner man

The outer man speaks of our physical bodies, which are slowly deteriorating

2 Co 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened

VI) Though we are slowly dying, our inner person can actually grow stronger

2 Co 4:16 but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day

VII) Our physical and mental strength may diminish with age

Despite this, spiritually, we can still be growing

This comes through Spiritual discipline: Primarily by caring for the basics

Pr 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

VIII) Growth comes through the working of the Holy Spirit, in the innermost part of our being

- IX) V17 He prays that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith
To dwell speaks of taking up residence: May He grow more at home in your heart
- X) It has been said that our hearts are Jesus' home
Our minds are the library: what do we have stored there? What are we reading?
It should be filled with His word, which replaces all of the trash we've collected
- XI) The dining room is where our appetites are satisfied
What is on the menu? Pride, fleshly desires, materialism?
Replace these things with humility, kindness, goodness, patience, and peace
- I) The living room is where we entertain guests, it is the place of fellowship
What kind of friends with the world do we entertain?
Jas 4:4 You people aren't faithful to God! Don't you know if you love the world, you are God's enemies? And if you decide to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.
- II) Instead of cultivating relationship with the world, develop Christian friendships
2 Ti 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, *along with those* who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
1 Co 15:33 Do not be misled: "*Bad company* corrupts good character."
- III) Finally, each of our homes has closets
What do we store in the closet that we wouldn't want Him to see?
We cleanse the closets by confessing and forsaking what we have hidden there
- IV) Our hearts are to be submitted to the Spirit as we, by faith, grow in Jesus
This carries a progressive sense of a deepening fellowship and intimacy
Ps 103:7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.
- V) V17 That you may be rooted (plant) and grounded (foundation of a building) in love
When Jesus is at home in our hearts, we yield to the Spirit, and He settles in
- VI) The result of yielding to Him will be *God's love* filling our lives
His love will be evident to all who know us

VII) It isn't just that we are loved *by* Him, but that we love others *because* of Him
Jn 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another;
as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

VIII) If God's Spirit strengthens us, and Jesus is at home in us, we will grow deep in His love
Calvary Chapel Distinctive: The Love of God that should permeate our fellowship

IX) Love in the biblical sense, is the attitude of selflessness
True love motivates action and is demonstrated, most often by sacrifice
1 Jn 4:9-10 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

X) The love Paul is speaking of is what is called agape
Agape is not feelings or emotions but is a decision of the will
This is what provoked God to send Jesus, and Jesus to give His life in sacrifice

I) Jesus voluntarily gave up His life on the cross
It wasn't an emotion that drove Him to the cross, but a decision of His will
Jn 10:17-18 The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down *of My own accord*. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from My Father.”

II) When Jesus dwells in our hearts, we actually begin to desire to love and serve others
This is because we have been given a new nature, and desire what pleases Him

III) It is still possible to be unloving, but that will be the result of our quenching the Spirit
If I fail to love my wife, or to care for someone else it isn't because I can't help myself
It is the result of my refusing to yield my will and dying to self

IV) You don't fall in agape love and fall out of agape love
It is the decision you make to either die to self or to retain a desire to

resist

1 Jn 4:20-21 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

V) QUOTE: The absence of love has nothing at all to do with what is happening *to* us, but everything to do with what is happening *in* us

VI) What is the fruit of being rooted and grounded in love

VII) V18 That they may be able to comprehend *with all the saints* what is the width and length

Comprehending God's love results from receiving it on a personal level
To understand it is the result of being completely immersed in it

VIII) When we are saved, we come into relationship with God, and He pours His love in us

Ro 5:5 hope does not put us to shame, because *God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, Who has been given to us.*

IX) This Love is available to every Christian because Christ *is in* every Christian
It is so great that no one can appropriate it alone, which is why we need all the saints

It is what makes a church body attractive to those who aren't yet saved

X) V19 To (personally) know the love of Christ which passes knowledge
Christianity is not built on moral commands, but on a Person *Who loves us*

As we fellowship together we see how God works in more than just us!
Width, length, depth, height represents how vast and complete God's love is

I) V19 That you may be filled with all the fullness of God
That God's Spirit might be so at work in you that His fruit is produced in your life

II) When people see you, they see God working in your life
Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law

III) V20-21 To Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask

or think

He can do this work because He desires you to have *all that He has*

IV) Even though he had asked God for much, God could even do much more

A young man got off at the Pennsylvania depot and for years begged on the streets for a living. One day he touched a man on the shoulder and said, "Hey, mister, can you give me a dollar?" As soon as he saw the man's face, he was shocked to see that it was his father. He said, "Father, do you know me?" Throwing his arms around his son with tears in his eyes, his father said "My son, at last I've found you! I've found you. You want a dollar? Everything I have is yours". The young man later was heard to say "Think of it. I stood begging my own father for a dollar, when for 18 years he had been looking for me to give me all that he had".