



Ephesians

DEATH TO LIFE

Ephesians 3:14–21

Ephesians 1-3: God's plan to reunite and bless all humans in Christ

Ephesians 4-6: How we are to live in light of that

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

Ephesians 3:14–15

ESV

1. God is the Father of All

"...every family in heaven and earth"

that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16–19

ESV

2. God Lives in Us

“filled with all the fullness of God”

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:16–20

ESV

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

John 14:16–20

ESV



“This prayer assumes that the Christian life is not automatic. Life from God comes as a gift, but it is not magic. It is a life of engagement with God’s Spirit, who makes Christ and his purposes known. Life is relational, and relations require time and investment. God intended from the first for humans to live in relation to him. With God’s Spirit taking up residence in us, that intent is realized.

...the Spirit comes as gift, just as initial conversion is a gift. Nothing we do can cause God’s Spirit to merge with our spirit. But the implication that we do nothing is a colossal error. The Spirit will not empower unwilling, inattentive spirits.

Klyne Snodgrass, NIV Application Commentary

Paul's prayer indicates God's people should be aware of the need for the Spirit, attentive to God's purposes and leading, at work on the interior life, and ready to be obedient. The entire letter... assumes that instruction, understanding, decisions, and effort are all required for people to enjoy the work of the Spirit. The doxology in 3:20 emphasizes that God is at work in us, but implies that we need to be more aware and more expectant of his work. Ephesians 5:18 instructs us to be continually filled with the Spirit. We are responsible and active in this process. Passivity does not fit with Christian faith."

Klyne Snodgrass, NIV Application Commentary

3. God's Love is Foundational

"rooted and ground in love..."

...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:5b–8

DRAWING
TO CHRIST



JOYFUL WORSHIP
OF CHRIST THE KING

DEVELOPING
IN COMMUNITY



INTENTIONAL
CONNECTION
IN COMMUNITY

DEPLOYING
TO CULTURE



WELCOMING
SERVICE
TO OTHERS

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, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20–21

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