

Prayer for the Family of God Pt 2 (Eph 3:14-21)

I. Preparation in Prayer (vv. 14-15)

- a. Prayer to God involves humility
- b. Prayer to God recognizes our familial relationship with God

II. What We Pray for God's family (vv. 16-19)

- a. Pray for strength. We all need stronger spirits.
- b. We need to experience the presence of Christ within our hearts. The sensing the indwelling of Christ makes the difference.
- c. Recognition of the love of Christ in its multidimensionality
 1. The love of Christ is many-sided. It is supremely complex and yet simple.
 2. The love of Christ exceeds human understanding just as the peace of Christ
 3. Prayer must be for us to be filled with God's fulness. We need more God within us so God can come out us.

III. Acknowledgement of God in Prayer (vv. 20-21)

- a. Doxology: Oftentimes, in Scripture doxologies (doxa (Greek for glory)) are included to conclude statements and prayers to God. This is to set aside a moment to honor God in one's communication about or to God. In many cases, prayer begins with acknowledgement of God's greatness and concludes similarly. This doxology begins with the phrase, which is often used in doxologies, "Now unto him." The Lord's prayer ends with the phrase, "For yours is the kingdom..." (Matt 6:13).
- b. God's love is not only unsurpassable, God's ability is as well. We cannot ask or think beyond what God can do. And God goes beyond our barriers among and through us. We must be ready vessels.
 1. It takes faith to accept this.
 2. It takes patience to wait on seeing this.
- c. God is always worthy of the glory in his church. The church must always be willing to give glory to God. We were chosen for such purposes. Our giving glory to God is what we will be doing in the age to come, for which we wait patiently.