

Ephesians 3:14-21. *Reverence*. Because I can now approach the very throne of the Lord Our God with full confidence & freedom, I kneel.⁹ The whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name [πατριὰ, 3965] from God the Father's name [Πατέρα, 3962].

- ✓ From this glorious abundance, I pray Father God will strengthen you with Holy Spirit within you, your very essence.
- ✓ I pray this so that the Christ may consume your raison d'être through trust.
- ✓ I pray you being planted/rooted [as in vegetation] and built [as in a building's foundation] εν love [ἀγάπη, 26] so you may fully comprehend the immense dimensions of the Christ's love.
- ✓ Furthermore, I pray that you know this ἀγάπη which surpasses knowledge [γνώσεως, 1108] so that you'll be filled to capacity [πληρωθήτε, 4137] to the very fullness of God Himself.

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that ["the," τον is in the text] Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Finally, let me declare to Him who is able to do more than we can ever ask, or even imagine, as He works within us—to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus among all people for all ages, for all time!

- Q Why did Paul pray (i.e., "kneel") before Father God?
- Q How is family derived from God the Father? Should this comfort, or freak us?
- Q If we do indeed trust that Christ consumes our very reason for being, what risks are we taking?
- Q If we're planted and built in love, so what? How are we different?
- Q What does this ἀγάπη do for us? [v 18 "power to grasp," fully comprehend, ἐξισχύσητ καταλαβέσθα1840 & 2636]
- Q How do you compare the end of Paul's prayer with the typical prayer we hear at church, or at the dinner table? How does it compare to yours at night? In the morning when you rise?
- Q What are the barriers to grasping "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?" (18)
- Q In what ways does love surpass knowledge? What does it mean to "be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God?" (19)
- Q How is all this blessing possible? (20) What is this power working within us? (20; see also Philippians 2:12-13)
- Q To whom is Paul praying for glory—Father, Son or Holy Spirit in verse 21?

⁹The custom in Saul/Paul's time was to stand while praying. Serious reverence.