

# Ephesians 3:14-21

One Family Growing in Love, Glorifying God

*14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

## A Prayer to Our Father

Paul is writing a prayer for the church in Ephesus, but the church for all generations as well (vs. 15, 21). This prayer is not only a request to God, but it is descriptive of theological ideas that have application within the church body. As we look at what God is doing in the life of the body the concept is rooted in the idea of abiding believers interacting with one another in a biblical, Holy Spirit directed way. This presents both the idea of progressive sanctification (conditional growth vs. positional completion) and the idea of legacy while the church body waits for the return of our groom, Jesus.

### God, the Father (vs. 15)

All of creation gets its name from being God's creation. No matter how you look at things He is the creator and beginner and Father of all things. Since God has inspired the correlation of fatherhood to His position in eternity we should consider some of the attributes of this specific fatherhood

- God is the one who begot all of creation (Genesis 1)
- God made man in His image (Genesis 1:26-28)
- God is our Father

As we look at the rest of this prayer we see attributes of God defined. *What are some of those attributes?*

### God, the Rich (v. 16a)

Paul starts by citing God's rich glory as the source of much of what is to follow. God is wealthy in an infinite way. God's glorious wealth comes from his omnipotence and His expression of that wealth of glory comes from His benevolent love for His children. Here Paul associates God's glory with the idea of infinite riches.

*Why is God's glory being poured out to the believer?*

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