

Contra Mundum

Filled with all the Fullness of God

Ephesians 3:14-21

March 29, 2015

I. We Never Graduate from the Gospel

- Romans 1:15; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:23

II. Keys to Being Filled with all the Fullness of God

- A humble, dependent heart that bows before God in prayer (v.14; Ephesians 3:1, 12; Philippians 2:12-13)
- Living to honor the name of our Heavenly Father (v.15; Revelation 4:9-11)
- Strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit in our inner being (v.16; John 15:5; Ephesians 6:10; Philippians 4:13; 2 Peter 1:3; Hebrews 4:12)
- Christ dwelling in our hearts through faith and being rooted and grounded in his love (v.17; Colossians 3:16)
- Strength from the Holy Spirit to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love (v.18; 1 John 4:19)
- Knowing the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge (v.19)
- The "one key" is the gospel.

III. The Goal of Being Filled with all the Fullness of God

- Power to obey all that God has commanded us (v.20; Romans 8:11)
- God's glory (v.21; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

Suggested Reading:

Convinced of God's Love: Growing in Humility and Worship,

by Tony Guinn

The Cross Centered Life, by C.J. Mahaney

A Gospel Primer for Christians: Learning to See the Glories of God's Love, by Milton Vincent

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

1. What did you find most encouraging, challenging, or convicting from the sermon? Why? How will you apply this?
2. Take some time to discuss what it means that a Christian never graduates from the gospel. Discuss specific examples of how we can apply the gospel to our sin struggles and trials as believers. (If you need help getting started, read Ephesians 4:32, which contains a gospel promise, then apply this promise to the sins listed in verses 29-32.)
3. According to our passage, what must take place for us to be filled with all the fullness of God? Review the keys on the front page. Why can it be said that all of these keys are really just grooves on the "one key," which is the gospel?
4. Discuss the following statement from the sermon: "If we really saw our sin from God's perspective, it would scare the daylights out of us and, at the same time, show us the great depths of his love." How do daily reminders of both the depths of our sin and the depths of God's love unlock the door to being filled with all the fullness of God? How does knowing the depths of our sin in light of the gospel relate to being rooted and grounded in God's love, grasping the limitless love of Christ, knowing his love that surpasses knowledge, and thus being filled with all the fullness of God? (Hint: If you do not think you are a great sinner you will never understand how great God's love is!)
5. What does it mean to have Christ dwell in our hearts through faith? How does this happen? How does Colossians 3:16 help us to understand and explain how this happens?
6. Pray every morning thanking God for who he is and what he has done for you in Christ through the gospel, and reflect on this often during the day.