

The New Testament Drive-In Church
The Church is a Family - Pastor Paul Jehle
May 10, 2020

...I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly more above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” – Ephesians 3:14-21

- This passage is set in the context of a prophetic declaration and prayer that what had been hidden since Creation would be made known *by* the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to God’s eternal purpose
- And what might those declarations be? *That God has always wanted a family, and while we are isolated right now, and can manage in our one on one relationship with God as well as some of us in families, our identity is also corporate...*
- We bow to the Father of our Lord Jesus, the Son, *from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.*
 - The heavenly family is the church, and the earthly family is in our homes
 - God has always wanted a family – and so he created the human race
 - Because of the fall, He now must model what a family is...
 - Our homes were designed by God to be a little bit of heaven on earth
 - Home is God’s primary institution
 - It is the foundation for businesses, the church and the state
 - It is the first place to learn piety; to worship and honor God
 - It is the first economy; where we teach stewardship and management;
 - It is the first church; where we worship God and Hear His Word;
 - It is the first state so to speak; where we learn justice and how to respect private property....
 - Quote Lydia Sigourney, 1851... *For the strength of a nation, especially of a republican nation, is in the intelligent and well-ordered homes of the people. And in proportion as the discipline of families is relaxed, will the happy organization of communities be affected, and national character become vagrant, turbulent or ripe for revolution.*
 - But due to the fall, our homes don’t live up to these expectations
 - If you are a single parent, you are still a family

- If you are single, you still belong
 - If you don't have a father at home, God is your Father
 - If you don't feel worthy, or secure, Christ is your Redeemer
 - In short, where the earthly home fails, the heavenly home redeems
- *To be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*
- You can gain strength in God's heavenly family, the Church
 - Now we will one day dwell in a perfect heavenly family, but not yet
 - It is through the Church that you learn who you are in Christ, and you can relate to other not so perfect families and singles who are learning as well
- *...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God*
- It is when we become a part of a church, a fellowship in covenant, that we get rooted and grounded in love and can begin to comprehend His love
 - Together we can learn about Christ, but also learn that His acceptance, His forgiveness, His love, passes or supersedes knowledge...
 - What is the goal? That we, the church together, might be filled with the fullness of God!
- *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly more above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*
- So what is your need? For some, it is fellowship with other believers – they miss the family atmosphere or a church...
 - For others, it is deeper in person teaching, where they can ask questions...
 - For some, it is a deep loneliness, or even deeper depression...
 - At this time, though God has used it to strengthen us, expose our sin, deepen our repentance and walk with Him, it has also been an atmosphere of increased suicide, increased domestic turmoil, and for some even, hardly anything that looks like family...
- But I now pray over you that God can do exceedingly more than you could ask or even think, though the enemy and life may have damaged your faith, emotions or expectations, if you are a believer, He resides within you, and can restore what the enemy has intended for evil.
- If you don't know Jesus, you can come to know Him now – simply surrender to Him, admit your sin and that you fall short of His expectations, and ask Him to forgive you and become Lord of your life – and He will enter!