



Poema
“Transcending Religion”

Ephesians 3:14-21

The culture in which we find ourselves is one that has become entirely absorbed in self-centered thinking. This is seen in a variety of ways. Instead of the church influencing culture, culture is influencing the church.

The church is known as the ***ecclesia*** – “**called out ones.**” Jesus prayed for His church to be in the world but not of the world. He prayed that through the authenticity of His followers, the entire world would know that He is true. They would recognize His death, burial, and resurrection is the only hope for mankind.

Paul’s prayer for the church at Ephesus is entirely relevant for us today. It is needed for those identified as “Christians” who claim they are “Christ followers.” Paul’s words are worthy of our focus, consideration, and obedience. If we love Jesus and truly desire to please Him in all things, these words in Ephesians 3:14-21 help us to move from religion to relationship in truth and authenticity. This prayer for Christ’s church transcends religion.

➤ ***Allow the Holy Spirit to transform us from the INSIDE out. (Ephesians 3:14-16)***

What does this actually mean for us? We should be reminded of two very important facts:

1: God the Father is sovereign, all powerful, all knowing, present everywhere and at all times, He is never asleep, taking a nap, on vacation, or away on a business trip. He is all in all – “***...from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named...***” He is the great I AM. In other words, God is in control.

2: From the storehouse of His limitless riches, which He has already given to us, He strengthens us. This simply means that all the power, strength, knowledge, and understanding we need is ours, “***...that according to the riches of his glory...***” Are we using what we have been given? Are we appropriating what is already ours?

The inner man is a term that is used for our new nature. Our new nature is born of God and is the part of us that loves the Lord and desires to obey His Word. Nonetheless, it is still in need of development because it resides within our still very sinful physical body. When the inner man is fed regularly on the Word of God and seeks the Spirit’s will in all life’s decisions, the believer can be sure he will be “***...strengthened with power through his Spirit...***” Spiritual power is not the mark of a special class of Christian. It is the mark of every Christian who submits to God’s Word and Spirit.

➤ ***Allow Christ to live His life THROUGH us. (Ephesians 3:17-19)***

Allowing Jesus to live His life through us is neither fearful nor intimidating. We will not transform into someone who is led away to a Monastery in the mountains of Tibet to do nothing but chant and eat a special diet. We will live a life centered in a transforming relationship with the God of all creation. He has His own purposes, which do not render us weird or out of touch. Instead, it makes us engage our culture in and with the love of Jesus Christ. We, with a sound mind and body, are used to express His awesome love and grace to others.

➤ ***Trust in the power of God to take us from where we ARE to where He WANTS us to be. (Ephesians 3:20-21)***

Today, many believers live to just get by. This is unfortunate. Because of their relationship with Christ, they are actually the richest people on the face of the earth. Many Christians strive to be relevant, fulfilled, and loved by the world's standard. Yet, they never bother to trust the Sovereign God of all creation. He has specifically chosen each and every one of them to be conformed to the relevant, fulfilling, comprehensive, inclusive image and love of Jesus Christ.

When we learn to appropriate all that we have in Christ, our life will be radically transformed. The power of the Holy Spirit will be at work in us as we allow Christ to live His life through us. Only then will we know real peace, real joy, real acceptance, and real purpose. Then, and only then, will we become the church of Jesus Christ in power to the praise of His glorious grace.

cd.TCT.121116