

## Summary

In this sermon from Ephesians 3:14-21, the pastor explores Paul's prayer for the church, emphasizing how God's plan is to unite all things under Christ and make the church a dwelling place for God's Spirit. The pastor reflects on how Mercy Springs church has faced significant challenges and losses this year, yet has demonstrated Christ-like resilience and community support. He highlights that the church is meant to be a 'working model of new creation' - a community so filled with God's Spirit that it reflects His kingdom to the surrounding neighborhood. The sermon concludes with Paul's prayer that believers would be strengthened with power through the Spirit, rooted in love, and able to comprehend the immeasurable love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so they may be filled with all the fullness of God.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today to discuss Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us. Help us to be vulnerable and honest with one another as we explore the depths of Your love and Your plan for us as Your church. Holy Spirit, guide our conversation and help us to see how we can better reflect Your kingdom in our daily lives. We pray that through our time together, we would be strengthened in our inner being and rooted more deeply in Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

What is one way someone in your family, workplace, or community has shown you support during a difficult time this year?

## Key Verses

1. Ephesians 3:14-21
2. Ephesians 1:9-10
3. Ephesians 2:19-22

## Questions

1. Paul describes God's mystery as bringing 'all things in heaven and on earth together under Christ.' How do you see division working against God's plan in our world today?
2. The pastor mentioned that the church should be a 'working model of new creation.' What does this look like practically in our daily interactions with neighbors and community?
3. How has your understanding of being part of the 'body of Christ' changed or deepened through difficult seasons in your life?

4. Paul prays that we would be 'strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit.' What are some ways we can cultivate this inner spiritual strength?
5. The sermon mentions that Mercy Springs has faced defeats and losses this year, yet people have shown resilience. How have you seen God's power work through weakness in your own life or in others?
6. What does it mean to be 'rooted and grounded in love'? How can we help each other grow deeper roots in God's love?
7. Paul prays that we would comprehend the 'breadth and length and height and depth' of Christ's love. Why do you think it takes supernatural power to truly grasp God's love for us?
8. How can our church better reflect God's kingdom to our community so that 'the rest of our community receive the gospel of Jesus Christ just by being our neighbors'?

## **Life Application**

This week, intentionally reach out to someone in your church community who may be going through a difficult time. Offer practical support, encouragement, or simply your presence. Also, look for one specific way you can demonstrate God's love to a neighbor or coworker, allowing your life to be a 'working model of new creation' in your everyday interactions.

## **Key Takeaways**

1. God's ultimate plan is to unite all things under Christ, and division is the work of the enemy while unity is God's work
2. The church is meant to be a dwelling place for God's Spirit and a visible sign of His redemptive purpose for all creation
3. We are called to be a 'working model of new creation' - a community that reflects God's kingdom so clearly that others receive the gospel through our witness
4. Even in the midst of defeats and losses, God's power can work through us to demonstrate victory and resilience
5. Paul's prayer emphasizes being strengthened with spiritual power, rooted in love, and filled with the comprehension of Christ's immeasurable love

## **Ending Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You for the reminder that we are not strangers or aliens, but fellow citizens and members of Your household. As we leave this time together, help us to carry the truth of Your immeasurable love with us throughout this week. Strengthen us in our inner being with power through Your Spirit, and help us to be rooted and grounded in love. May we be a community that reflects Your kingdom so clearly that others are drawn to You through our lives. We pray that You would accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, both in our individual lives and as Your church. To You be glory forever and ever. Amen.