

## THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

### “We Are His Workmanship”

Date: 11-3-24 Lesson: 26  
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#### **THE TEXT - (Ephesians 4:13-16)**

(13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of **the knowledge of the Son of God**, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of **the fullness of Christ**,

(14) so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

**(Is 57:20; Mt 11:27; Jn 1:16-18; Ac 2:42; Php 3:8; 1 Cor 2:6; 3:1,2; 14:20; Col 1:28; 1 Tim 4:1,2; Titus 1:9; 2:1; Heb 5:12-14; Jas 1:6; 1 Pet 2:2; Jude 12)**

(15) Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into **him who is the head, into Christ**,

(16) from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

**(Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:7; Col 1:18; 2:19; 2 Thess 1:3; 1 Pet 1:22; 1 Jn 3:18)**

#### **STUDY HELPS**

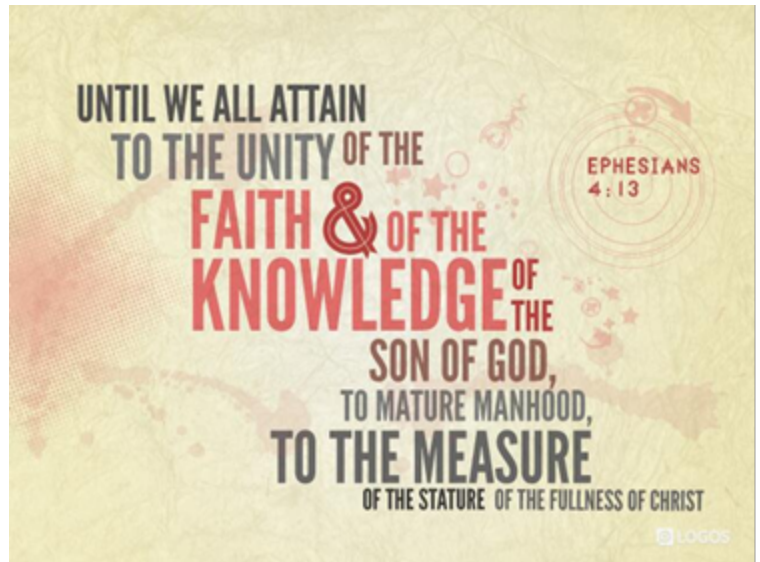
#### **THE LARGE CATECHISM - THE SECOND PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Note: In this petition, we are praying to **God that the kingdom of Christ** will come and remain among us, both in this life and finally on the Last Day. We ask **God** that we will remain faithful and daily grow in His grace, so that many more will come to **Christ's kingdom**. This petition shows that **God** wants us to ask not only for small cares and needs of life but also for great things from Him.*

*If **God** invites us to pray for such great and wonderful things as **His kingdom of grace**, surely He will provide also for our daily needs.*

**“Thy kingdom come.”**

[49] In the First Petition we prayed **about God's honor and name**. We prayed that He would prevent the world from adorning its lies and wickedness with **God's name**, but that He would cause His name to be valued as great and holy both in doctrine and life, so that He may be praised and magnified in us. Here we pray that **His kingdom** also may come. [50] But **just as God's name is holy in itself**, and we still pray that it be holy among us, so also **His kingdom** comes of itself, without our prayer. Yet we still pray that it may come to us, that is, triumph among us and with us, so that we may be a part of those people among whom His name is hallowed and **His kingdom** prospers.



[51] “But what is **God’s kingdom?**” Answer, “Nothing other than what we learned in the Creed: **God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,** into the world to redeem and deliver us from the devil’s power [1 John 3: 8]. **He sent Him to bring us to Himself** and to govern us as a **King of righteousness,** life, and salvation against sin, death, and an evil conscience. For this reason **He has** also given **His Holy Spirit,** who is to bring these things home to us by **His holy Word** and to illumine and strengthen us in the faith **by His power.**”

[52] We pray here in the first place that this may happen with us. We pray that **His name** may be so praised through **God’s holy Word** and a Christian life that we who have accepted it may abide and daily grow in it, and that it may gain approval and acceptance among other people. We pray that it may go forth with power throughout the world [2 Thessalonians 3: 1]. We pray that many may find entrance into **the kingdom of grace** [John 3: 5], be made partakers of redemption [Colossians 1: 12–14], and be led to it by **the Holy Spirit** [Romans 8: 14], so that we may all together remain forever in the **one kingdom** now begun.

[53] For the **coming of God’s kingdom** to us happens in two ways:

(a) here in time through **the Word** and faith [Matthew 13];

and (b) in eternity forever through revelation [Luke 19: 11; 1 Peter 1: 4– 5]. Now we pray for both these things. We pray that **the kingdom** may come to those who are not yet in it, and, by daily growth that it may come to us who have received it, both now and hereafter in eternal life.

[54] All this is nothing other than saying, “**Dear Father,** we pray, give us first **Your Word,** so that the **Gospel** may be preached properly throughout the world. Second, **may the Gospel** be received in faith and work and live in us, so that through **the Word and the Holy Spirit’s power** [Romans 15: 18– 19], **Your kingdom** may triumph among us. And we pray that the devil’s kingdom be put down [Luke 11: 17– 20], so that he may have no right or power over us [Luke 10: 17– 19; Colossians 1], until at last his power may be utterly destroyed. So sin, death, and hell shall be exterminated [Revelation 20: 13– 14].

**Then we may live forever in perfect righteousness and blessedness”**  
**[Ephesians 4: 12– 13].**

[55] From this you see that we do not pray here for a crust of bread or a temporal, perishable good. Instead, we pray for an eternal inestimable treasure and everything **that God Himself** possesses. This is far too great for any human heart to think about desiring, if **God had not Himself** commanded us to pray for the same.

[56] But **because He is God,** He also claims the honor of giving much more and more abundantly than anyone can understand [Ephesians 3: 20]. **He is like an eternal, unfailing fountain.** The more it pours forth and overflows, the more it continues to give. **God** desires nothing more seriously from us than that we ask **Him for** much and great things. In fact, **He is angry** if we do not ask and pray confidently [Hebrews 4: 16].

The Large Catechism - Concordia Publishing House. Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions-A Readers Edition of the Book of Concord - 2nd edition (pp. 414-415). Concordia Publishing. Kindle Edition.

## LIFE APPLICATION

*“We all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,”*

**Why is true Biblical doctrine essential for the church and for our daily lives in Christ?  
What happens when false teaching invades and permeates the church?**

*“Tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”*