

Why We Are To Be Rooted and Grounded In Love
(Ephesians 3:14-21)

Introduction:

1. According to Ephesians 1:1, the apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Christians in Ephesus and to those who are faithful in the Lord.
2. In Ephesians 3:14-21 Paul offered a beautiful prayer on behalf of Christians.
3. In his prayer Paul made a number of special requests.
4. In our lesson we are concentrating on his request in vs.17b -- that Christians be rooted and grounded in love.
5. Before we consider why we are to be rooted and grounded in love, . . .

Discussion:

- I. LET US DETERMINE WHAT "ROOTED AND GROUNDED" MEANS
 - A. We learn from Colossians 2:6-7 that "rooted" involves "being established" [Jesus explained the importance of a healthy root structure in Matthew 13:5-6].
 - B. We learn from Colossians 1:23 that "grounded" involves "being settled" [Jesus explained the importance of a settled foundation in Matthew 7:24-25].
 - C. These verses explain that "being rooted and grounded in love" has to do with "being established and settled in love."
 - D. Let us turn our attention to . . .
- II. 7 REASONS WHY WE ARE TO BE ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE
 - A. First, Jesus emphasized love in His teaching.
 1. According to Jesus,:
 - a. the first and second commandments involve love (Matthew 22:35-40)
 - b. His new commandment involves love (John 13:34)
 - c. His followers are to be recognized by their love for one other (John 13:35).
 2. The Christians in Jerusalem illustrate what is involved in practicing the Lord's teaching about loving God and each other (Acts 2:41-47).
 - B. Second, love is a comprehensive commandment (Romans 13:8-10).
 - C. Third, love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8-13).
 - D. Fourth, love is the first of nine characteristics that make up the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
 - E. Fifth, love is "*the bond of perfectness*" (Colossians 3:14).
 - F. Sixth, love is the last of seven characteristics known as "the Christian graces" that will prevent falling away (2 Peter 1:7).
 - G. Seventh, love is "*of God,*" and "*God is love*" (1 John 4:7-8).

Conclusion:

1. In Ephesians 3:17b an inspired apostle made a special request on behalf of the Lord's people -- that we be rooted and grounded in love.
2. We have considered 7 of the many reasons why we must fulfill this request.
3. Let us appreciate this request and give our very best effort to fulfill it.