

January 5, 2022

Building Bridges into the Future **[Ephesians 3:14-21](#)**

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Most bridges, beyond the simple beam bridge, have an arch to them. That arch in Roman times was the key to so many structures because their primary building material was stone. Stone works well in compression but breaks down in tension. So, the arch and arch bridge, where most all components are in compression, was a common Roman structure of Jesus' time and key to building about anything large since then.

Arch bridges have one other thing in common: each piece of the bridge depends on every other piece to take the weight and the compressive forces. If one rock breaks, it matters not how strong the rest of the stones are; they fall.

The first verse of this text (*For this reason I kneel before the Father*) makes it clear we are listening in on a prayer. It can be quite embarrassing and disquieting to listen in on someone else's prayer – when it's meant to be between them and the Almighty.

But this is a prayer for all of us. A prayer meant to be heard and handed down over the centuries and meant for all of us and our Christian kin over the years. It is strong in its emphasis that Christ's love gives power: the power to withstand the temptations of this world and know the love and fullness of God.

Strength. Love. Faith.

The bridges we build between our congregations, our people, our world, depend on the strength of this stone, this rock we build upon and with which we build. Where do we get this stone? Why, it's us. But this stone requires wondrous strength that comes from faith and the love of Christ.

A prayerful meditation: *Almighty Architect of the Universe, strengthen us that we might commit to be the stone that builds bridges between our communities and our congregations in Your name. Strengthen these bridges with Your power thorough love and faith so that our strength, in Your name, can withstand the trials and storms of life. Help us share this prayer that comes to us from the past with the future. In Jesus' name I pray. AMEN.*

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