

We Are God's Family
Praying for the Church
Ephesians 3:14-21

Independence Day and Established Rules of Management

On **July 4, 1776**. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states. *Independence Changed America.*

The Constitution of the United States (1789) is the supreme law of the United States of America. This founding document, originally comprising seven articles, delineates the national frame of government. Its first three articles embody the doctrine of the separation of powers, whereby the federal government is divided into three branches: the legislative, consisting of the bicameral Congress (Article I); the executive, consisting of the president and subordinate officers (Article II); and the judicial, consisting of the Supreme Court and other federal courts (Article III). Article IV, Article V and Article VI embody concepts of federalism, describing the rights and responsibilities of state governments.

Our Eternal Independence Day and Jesus' Rule on Earth

Eph. 2:1-10 God's work in me has changed who **I AM!**

Eph. 2:11-22 God's work in us has changed who **WE ARE!**

Eph. 3:1-13 Paul's Calling to **Make the Church Known!**

- The Church is a "New Creation," a "United Body," and a "Living Organism," made up of everyone who believes in Jesus (2:15).
- All who believe in Jesus share access to God through the Spirit and are united as a new family growing as a living organism. (2:18-22)
- Jesus chose Paul to fight for the unity of God's family amidst the greatest of diversity and opposition. (3:1-7)
- The church, as God's family, is a new creation planted by Jesus and is a growing organism because of Him. (3:7-10)
- Ruler's and Authorities in the spiritual realm are watching to see God's wisdom manifested through the church. (3:11-12)

Paul's Prayer for the Church is "growth" as Jesus described it in "The Sower and the Seed." (Luke 8:3-8)

Praying for the Church to Grow as Family of God (3:14-21)

1. **God is the creator and sustainer of the church, His children and His family, past, present and future. (3:14-15)**

"The Seed" planted within us establishes us as children of God (John 3) and members of God's family on earth.

2. **What we need most from God to grow is strengthening by the power of His Spirit working within us. (3:16)**

"The Seed" is planted within us through the Spirit and is growing in power within each of us.

3. **The Spirit strengthens Christ's presence within us so that we are rooted, grounded and growing in God's likeness. (3:17-19)**

"The Seed" is getting rooted and grounded in us so that we will grow in love and the fullness of what God, as our Father, is doing among us.

4. **Do not underestimate what God can do through His power within us and in the church from now and forever. (3:20-21)**

"The Seed" planted within us will bear fruit through us forever.

"The Seed Planted" will "Bear Fruit"

- **The church is a living organism that grows because Jesus is rooted in the heart of His followers.**
- **The heart of God is that the church will reflect what He is like through their growth in love as a family.**
- **My priority in life is that Jesus will be firmly rooted in me so that I will be a healthy contributor to the growth of God's family.**