I Bow To The Father

Ken Chapman · Ephesians 3:14–19

INTRODUCTION

- We are family, and that has meaning and that has significance to our relationship to one another.
- If we're a family, that means that we have a father. We share the same father.
- If we truly are children of God, then that has a standard to it, an obligation to it. We will be like our Father.

1 For This Reason I Bow

Ephesians 3:14; Ephesians 3:8–13

- For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The first thing that jumps off the page as we study this text is that there's a reason. In fact, we have reason to bow.
- The word that is translated worship in our New Testament Bibles really speaks of the idea of not just falling to our knees, but falling prostrate on the ground.
- This is a spiritual posture that we bow ourselves before God spiritually, mentally in our ascent to him.
- He speaks of the manifold wisdom, the powerful, wise plan of God that baffles the human mind.

2 Because of the Love Shown Through Jesus Christ

Ephesians 3:15–19

- For this reason I bow, the apostle says, because of the love that's been shown through Jesus Christ.
- The Bible speaks of the love and the power of God demonstrated in two powerful ways. Number one is through creation.
- We bow our knees as he describes here because of his salvation power, seen through the person of Jesus Christ, who was the culmination of that plan.
- We don't know anything better to do than to fall to our knees before him.

3 We Bow to Our Father

Exodus 19:6; Genesis 9:6; 1 John 4

- We bow to him because he's our Maker. We bow to him because he's our King. We better bow to him because He'll be our judge.
- The apostle doesn't use any of those appropriate titles when he says, I bow to the Father. That doesn't speak of his power. That speaks of his love.
- Our Father decided to give life to us. And when we strayed, he decided to adopt us.
- It is most likely that what he has in mind here is a different family. Our theme for this year, our spiritual family.

4 We Bow to a Loving Father

Ephesians 1:3; Ephesians 2:1–7

- When the Bible speaks of God as our Father, again, it's speaking of it in the ideal sense. A Father who not just gives life, but gives love.
- Do we bow to him out of fear? Yes. Do we bow to him out of reverence? Yes. But do we also bow to him out of love? Absolutely we do.
- Our Father, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace.
- That's the Father we bow to.

5 The Father of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15; Ephesians 2:11–13

- Remember the son's request, just make me a servant. But the father elevated him back to the status of a son.
- The story in Luke 15 is about a father who loves a son who's run away from home.
- The story is about the Father being rich in mercy toward us.
- God's plan, the Father's plan, was to reconcile us together in Christ Jesus.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you bowing to the Father this morning? Would you, like that prodigal son, recognize your plight in sin and say, I'll go to my father. Would you render obedience to that father? He's waiting to welcome you home today.

MY NOTES