

3:16

Ephesians 3:16

Ephesians 3:14-21



The Posture of Prayer

- Paul is not saying to always kneel to pray, but that he was kneeling for a reason.
- Paul sees the solution to the problems of the world as being in Christ.
- Paul's prayer is that the church would reflect the true nature of Christ.
- Paul's burden is so great that he finds himself not just kneeling but prostrate in prayer.
- There is nothing in the Bible that gives us direction as to the posture of our prayers.



The Person of the Prayer

- Paul directs his prayer to the Father.
- Paul almost develops a complete theology of Father God in his letter:
 - God is the Father of all.
 - God is the creator of things.
 - We have access to the Father.
 - God wants to give us the wisdom needed to grow in our Christian walk.



Praying For Maturity

- Paul is praying for the Ephesians to become more mature in Christ.
- Paul asks that God empower believers with an inner strength.
- We cannot be all that God intends for us to be as Christians simply because we think we can.
- We need the Holy Spirit to empower and strengthen us.



Christ's Presence

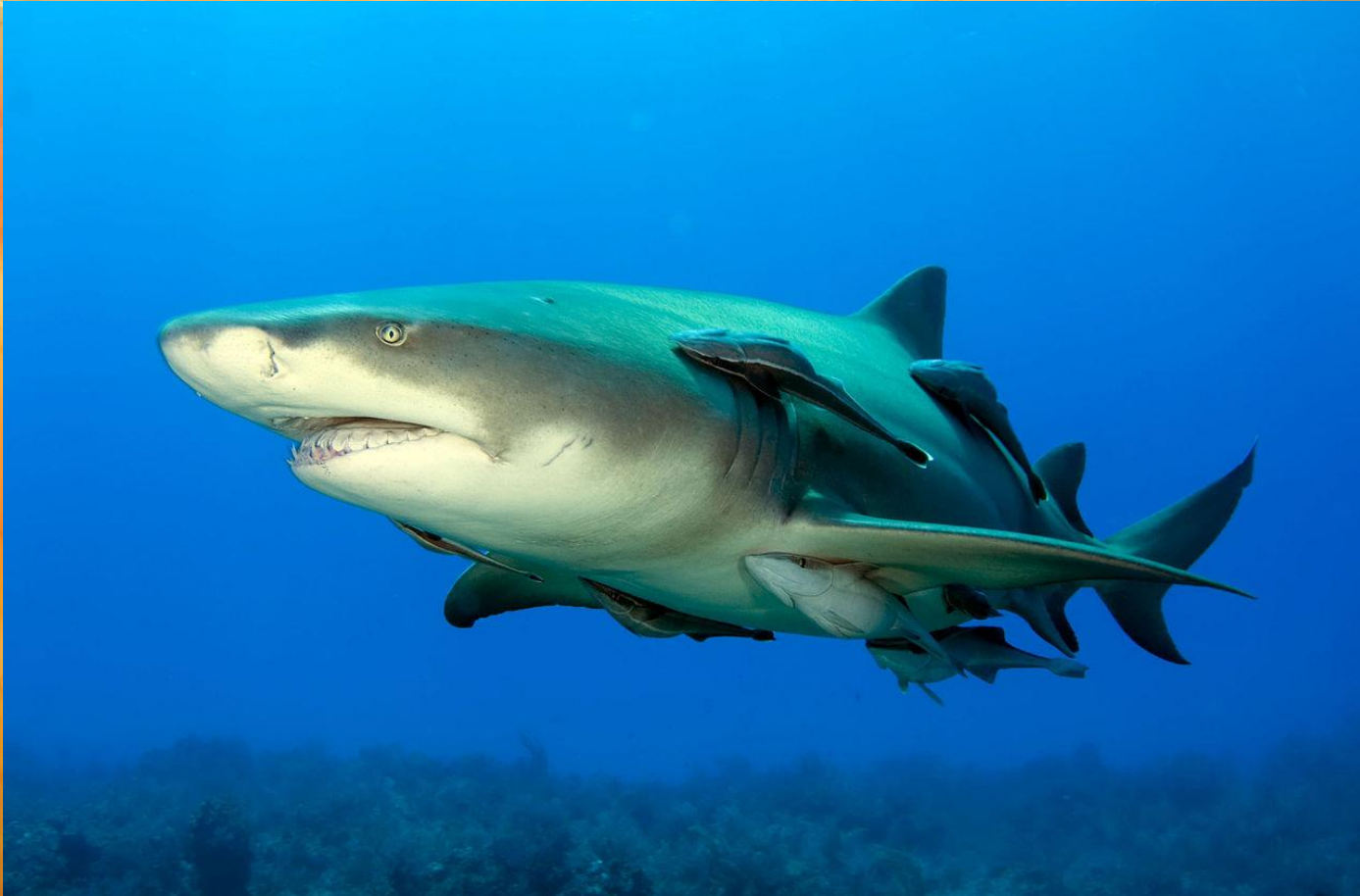
- **When we become a Christian, Christ's presence is with us all the time.**
- **Paul talks about a control/commitment issue.**
- **This is more about Christ controlling our lives than it is about Christ simply being a part of our lives.**



Remora



Remora and Shark



Deep Roots

- In His parable of the seeds and the soils, Jesus talks about being deeply rooted.
- The roots of the believer will grow deep and strong:
 - By talking to God – that is called prayer.
 - By hearing from God – that is reading His Word.



Understand God's Love

- Paul prays for people to understand and experience God's love.
- The love of God is better experienced than explained.
- It's not enough to understand the love of God until you experience the love of Christ.
- God loves you so much that through the sacrifice of His Son, He is able to forgive you.



Conclusion

- Paul is praying that the Ephesian Christians have fullness of life.
- Without God, life is not complete.
- We were created to have a relationship with the Creator.
- Paul's prayer is for us to discover a fullness of life that can only come from the giver of life Himself.

