

The Mystery Revealed

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Sermon Outline – Ephesians 3:1-7

After spending some time in this text together, I hope we'll walk away with not only a better understanding of who Paul is, but a clearer picture of this mystery he speaks about in this letter and how it relates to us as believers!

Read Ephesians 3:1-3.

- Philippians 3:4-6
- Acts 7:58-8:3
- Acts 9:1-9

Ephesians 3:1-7

¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

Unpacking this mystery throughout Ephesians

- Vertical Unity (Unity between Heaven and Earth)
 - Ephesians 1:9-10 - ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.
- Ethnic Unity (Unity between Gentile & Jew)
 - Ephesians 3:6 - ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.
- One-Flesh Unity (Husband/Wife....Christ and the Church)

- Ephesians 5:32 - ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.
- Gospel is Unity
 - Ephesians 6:19 - ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

This mystery Paul has committed his life to can be summed up in one word...unity.

Read Ephesians 3:6-7 –

Colossians 1:24–27

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. ²⁷ **To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**