

Christian Challenge of Wichita Study Guide
Ephesians 3:1-13
2/26/26

Read Ephesians 3:1-13

The Content of the Mystery

Paul describes the content of the mystery most directly and concisely in verse 6: **“This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”**

- What biblical background regarding God’s relationship to Jews and Gentiles would have made this mystery so controversial or mysterious in Paul’s time?

Paul writes that the mystery **“...was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit”** (v. 4-5). Paul describes it as **“The plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God...”** (v. 9) but now revealed **“according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (v. 11).

- What does this tell us about the importance of the Old Testament and about the importance of Jesus? What are some ways that the Old Testament foreshadowed Jesus’s ministry and the Gospel? (Example: The Passover, where God saved Israel by the blood of a lamb.)
- Simply stated, in your own words, what is the Gospel?
- Have you trusted in the Gospel? If not, what’s stopping you?

The Consequence of the Mystery

Paul states the consequence of the mystery most directly and concisely in verse 10. God brought Jews and Gentiles together in the Gospel **“so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”** The Church was designed to be like a diamond through which the bright ones of heaven see the spinning, sparkling, multi-faceted, unending glory of God.

- Knowing this fact, how should we think about the privilege and responsibility of conducting ourselves in the life of the church?

The element of the Church that most intensely refracts the wisdom of God and sends it bounding into heavens is unity in diversity.

- What is the foundation of our unity?
- What are some ways we can express diversity in our unity?

- What happens if we lose sight of unity in the Gospel? What happens if we lose sight of diversity of expression?
- How can we stay unified in the Gospel while encouraging diversity in the life of the church?

The Calling of the Mystery

Paul describes himself as a prisoner of Christ (v. 1), a steward of God's grace (v. 2), and a servant of the Gospel (v. 7). *The truth is, all Christians should view themselves as prisoners of Christ, stewards of God's grace, and servants of the Gospel* (Matthew 28:19-20, John 14:15, 1 John 2:3-6, Acts 5:29, 1 Peter 4:10, Matthew 25:14-30, 2 Cor. 3:6, 2 Cor. 5:18). This is a calling given *to us for* others.

- Which of these images is most powerful for you? Why?
- What is one step you want to take this week to step into the calling God has given to you for others?