



“The Church: Exposing the Divine Mystery”

EPHESIANS 3:1-13

MAIN POINT: THE CHURCH EXISTS TO EXPOSE THE DIVINE MYSTERY.

I. Divine Mystery Revealed (3:2-9)

“...the idea of including Gentiles in one body with Jews was the spiritual equivalent of saying that lepers were no longer to be isolated, that they were now perfectly free to intermingle and associate with everyone else as normal members of society...In the minds of most Jews...the thought of total equality before God was inconceivable and little short of blasphemy.” (John MacArthur)

II. Divine Mystery Displayed (3:10-12)

“They were considered odd, unlearned, ungodly, culturally lowbrow, and socially unprofitable. The Romans thought that the Christians practiced cannibalism because they ate the body and drank the blood of Jesus. Some thought they were incestuous because they called each other brother and sister and took part in love feasts. Others thought they were atheists because they had no icons for their God.” (Kevin DeYoung)

“It’s the powerful effects of the gospel being worked out in real lives and real relationships...The heavenly beings look down at the Church, and they see an amazing *family*. The power of the gospel is not only changing individuals, but is also creating a whole new kind of humanity. In the midst of a strife-torn world—a world divided by gender, by race, by class, and by political ideology—the Church is a city set on a hill where people who once hated God and each other become God’s children and members of *one family*.” (Josh Harris)

The church – the community of all true believers for all time. (Wayne Grudem)

Application Questions:

- 1) What is the “divine mystery”? How has God revealed this to you?
- 2) What are the privileges that Christians have in knowing the divine mystery? Have you held back in communicating the Gospel to others due to prejudice?
- 3) How has God planned to display His manifold wisdom? To whom does Paul say its displayed?
- 4) How do we maintain the priority of the church’s existence?
- 5) Do you have the same high view of the church as God? If not, how can God’s Word help adjust your vision?
- 6) Take time this week to pray for the purity and unity of the church (both universal and here locally as well). Pray that all Christians will keep the Gospel central to our unity.