



Hurricane Ian Relief

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**If I've told you once,
I've told you a thousand times...**



05

The mystery of Christ

Ephesians 3:1-13



Ephesians 3:1 NIV

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



Ephesians 2:15b-16 NIV

His purpose was to create in himself **one new humanity** out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

Ephesians 2:18 NIV

For through him **we both have access** to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22 NIV

And in him you too are being built together to become **a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**



Ephesians 3:1 ^{NIV}

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



Ephesians 3:7-8 NIV

I became a **servant of this gospel** by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I **am less than the least of all the Lord's people**, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ...



The Mystery

How was it revealed?

What is it?

Why does it matter?



The Mystery

Something previously hidden but now revealed

Something known only to the initiated



The Mystery

Israel's Hardened Heart (Romans 11:25)

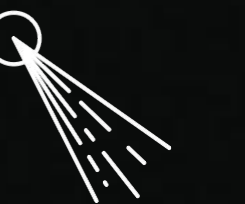
The Rapture (I Corinthians 15:51)

Christ in You (Colossians 1:27)

The Root of our Godliness (I Timothy 3:16)

Christ and His Bride (Ephesians 5:32)

Details of the End Times (Revelation 10:7)



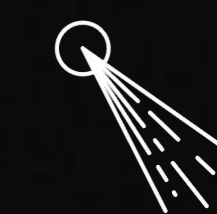
How was it revealed?

What is it?

Why does it matter?

Ephesians 3:2-6 ^{NIV}

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that **was given to me for you,** ³ that is, the mystery **made known to me by revelation,** as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which 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.** ⁶ This 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.



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Galatians 3:28-29 NIV

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



The Mystery

- Family** Same inheritance
- Body** Same responsibility
- Temple** Same access
- Kingdom** Same citizenship



How was it revealed?

What is it?

Why does it matter?

Ephesians 3:9-13 NIV

And to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ **His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,** ¹¹ **according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.** ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³ I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.



Ephesians 1:8b-10 NIV

With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.



Ephesians 1:19b-21 NIV

That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.



Ephesians 6:11-12 ^{NIV}

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.



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Live the mystery!



Live the mystery!

Be the church *together*.

Approach God *with freedom and confidence*.

Be encouraged *in suffering*.



"The church as a multi-racial, multi-cultural community is like a beautiful tapestry. Its members come from a wide range of colourful backgrounds. No other human community resembles it. Its diversity and harmony are unique."

-John Stott

