

A New Body of People: The Great Mystery of Christ

Ephesians 03:01–13

1 *It gave Paul purpose for existing*

- a. He existed to be a prisoner for Christ
- b. He existed to be a steward of God's grace

2 *It was a mystery: It required a special revelation to become known*

- a. Revealed to Paul
- b. Revealed to others

3 *It was a threefold revelation*

- a. All are fellow-heirs
- b. All are of one body
- c. All share in God's promise:
The new creation

4 *It affected Paul — profoundly*

- a. Caused him to become a minister — by the power of God
- b. Caused him to become a preacher — unworthy as he was

- 1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles —
- 2 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 men 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.
- 7 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 God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

c. Caused him
to become an evangelist

5 *It affects heavenly beings
even now,
profoundly so:
Causes them to stand
in stark amazement*

a. At what God is doing
in the church

b. At God's eternal purpose
— in Christ

c. At the believer's access
into God's presence
— by faith

6 *It stirred
a willingness within*

9 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
which 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.