

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.

**Mature Believer in Christ:
The Great Prayer for the Church and the Believer
Ephesians 03: 14–21**

1 *The prayer*

- a. Was for a reason
- b. Was with bowed knees
- c. Was to the Father
- d. Was for the whole family of God:
Past and present

2 *Request 1:*

*For strength, power within —
by God's Spirit*

3 *Request 2:*

*For Christ to rule and reign within —
by faith*

4 *Request 3:*

For love

5 *Request 4:*

*For understanding —
a full understanding of spiritual things*

6 *Request 5:*

To know the love of Christ

7 *Request 6:*

For the fullness of God

8 *Conclusion:*

*The encouragement to pray
and trust God for the answer*

- a. The fact:
God is able
- b. The source:
The power that works in us
- c. The purpose:
That God might be glorified
in the church through Jesus Christ

14 For this reason

I kneel before the Father,

15 From whom his whole family

in heaven and on earth derives its name.

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches

he may strengthen you with power
through his Spirit in your inner being,

17 So that Christ may dwell

in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you,
being rooted and established in love,

18 May have power,

together with all the saints,
to grasp how wide and long
and high and deep is the love of Christ,

19 And to know this love

that surpasses knowledge —
that you may be filled to the measure
of all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do

immeasurably more than
all we ask or imagine,
according to his power
that is at work within us,

21 To him be glory in the church

and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations,
for ever and ever! Amen.