

Sermon Title: Together

Sermon Series: Ephesians - Who We Are

Scripture: Ephesians 3:1-13

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



What gives you confidence?

ISRAEL

Ephesians 2:11-13 ESV

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

How do _____ know that _____ have
_____ to life with God?

Ephesians 3:1 ESV

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

Paul’s Prison _____ — _____ about Jesus and
Gentiles

Acts 26:16-18 ESV

16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, 17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you 18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

Ephesians 3:1-3 ESV

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— 2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.

Ephesians 3:4-5 ESV

4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which 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.

Ephesians 3:6-7 ESV

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.

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power.

Mystery _____ — _____ are part of the church

Galatians 3:27-29 ESV

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Bible Society 2020 Survey – Bible's view of Racism

- 24% think the Bible is actively against racial equality
- 21% think it's 'mixed' in its messaging

_____ Christian is equal under Christ

Ephesians 3:8-10 ESV

8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in[a] God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Purpose of the Mystery – _____ shows off God's

“No beautiful painting has ever been painted with only big, wide brushes.”

– John Piper

Ephesians 3:8-9 ESV

8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,

Church shows off God's wisdom

Ephesians 3:10 ESV

10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Kaleidoscope

1 Peter 1:12 ESV

12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Ephesians 1:21 ESV

21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Part of God's plan all along

Ephesians 3:11 ESV

11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

**Outcome of the Mystery – We can be _____ through
_____ in Him.**

Ephesians 3:12-13 ESV

12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Romans 8:18 ESV

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Be _____ because we have life with Jesus _____

“If we were able to say: ‘I disagree with you, but I agree with you on what is truly important, you are my brother and sister, and we will serve and worship together,’ then we would model to the world a much needed picture of unity, and of Christ-like love.”

—Tim Keller

Be _____ because we have life with Jesus _____

Questions

1. What gives you confidence?

2. Read Ephesians 3:1-13. What is something from this passage that surprised you, encouraged you, or was new to you?

Ephesians 3:1-13 ESV

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— 2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which 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. 6 This mystery is[a] that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in[b] God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

3. What is something this passage tells us about God?

4. What is something this passage tells us about us together?

5. How have you seen God bring together different ethnicities, social groups, personalities, etc. in the church? How can we grow in displaying this?

6. Have you ever felt like you could not be used by God? If so, why?

7. If God can use the "least of all the saints" (vs. 8), what are some ways he could use you to share the "riches of Christ" (vs. 9) with others?

8. In verses 12 & 13, what are we supposed to have our confidence in? How would this change our lives?

9. Who is God calling you to reach out to this week with the Good news of Jesus?