

## **The Purpose of the Church – Ephesians 3:1-13**

### **I. The Mystery Revealed (vv. 1-6)**

1. The institution of the Church Age created a new era where Gentiles could experience the covenant blessings of God.
2. The Apostle Paul uses the term “mystery” to describe this. In New Testament terms, mystery refers to something in the heart and mind of God that is hidden until He chooses to reveal it.
3. This mystery was revealed - to Paul (v. 3), the apostles and prophets (v. 5) and all the rulers in the heavenlies (v. 10).

### **II. The Mystery Explained (vv. 7-9)**

1. The Priesthood of All Believers (1 Peter 2:9, 10)
2. The Presence of the Holy Spirit, within and upon (1 Corinthians 3:16; Acts 1:8)
3. The Prevailing Church (Matthew 16:18)
  - The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13)
  - Unsearchable Riches (Romans 11:33)

### **III. The Mystery Manifested (vv. 10, 11)**

1. “Manifold” – multi-faceted. Used to describe something intricate and marked by a variety of colors.
2. “God’s wisdom should be revealed by what the church does and not its mere existence.” (Harold Hoehner).
3. We see this through an eternal perspective (vv. 12, 13).
4. Understanding the purpose of the Church helps us know -
  - How to endure trials (John 16:33; James 1:2-4)
  - Why God allows certain things to happen (Romans 8:28)
  - What we are called to do (Hebrews 12:1, 2)

### **IV. “Why” the Church?**

1. To preach, teach and reach (Matthew 28:18-20)
2. To use our God-given gifts for the purposes of God (Romans 12:3-8)
3. To maintain the victory that Christ has won (Luke 19:13)
4. To prove to the enemies of God how wise God is and how foolish they are (Ephesians 3:10)