



Ephesians: Masterpiece in Progress

Derrick Shields

“Mysteries No More”

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Key Verses: Ephesians 3:1-13

Key Thought: However broken we've been, God can empower us and work through us for the building up of His church— which displays God's victory over the rebellious spiritual powers.

Points to Consider:

- As with Paul, God wants to partner with us— regardless of our past (cf. 3:8).
- Paul's ministry was a consequence of God's gracious calling and empowerment, not an attempt to appease God or earn anybody's favor.
- As with Paul, God has a role for each of us in the building up of His church— a calling that's much bigger than ourselves. → Regardless of our perceived level of influence, God can do significant work through us. ← We can be like the “Mona Lisa,” which— while smaller— is even more significant than “The Last Supper.”
- 4-6: The “mystery” that was disclosed by the apostles and prophets of Christ was that God's redemptive plans are for non-Jews and Jews alike— that is, the church.
- 10-11: The church— created and called to be a people who are reconciled to God and to one another (see 2:14-16)— displays God's victory over the rebellious spiritual powers. (These spiritual powers sought to hijack God's plans and usurp human authority, but the church is now to live out God's original purposes for humanity.)

Steps to Take

1. Internalize and utilize our mission statement: “Christ Community Church exists to awaken the broken to a life of wholeness found in Jesus.”
2. Join the church (whether it be *this* expression or another). → Participate in the next [Getting Started](#) class.
3. Like Paul, surrender to God's calling to partner with Him for the building of His church.

Discussion Prompts:

- Why are— as Pastor Derrick said— God's power and our weakness a perfect match?
- Where do you sense God's empowerment in you for the building up of His church?
- Do you view your vocation more as a consequence of God's calling and empowerment— or your own initiative? What's the truth about your vocation?
- How does the church display God's victory over the rebellious spiritual powers?
- How do you feel, and what do you believe, about joining the church?