

## **UNITY AS IDENTITY**

Ephesians 3:7-21

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 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.

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:7-21

| Part of our identity as the church is and   |                                  |          |               |                          |  |
|---|----------------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| To have unity amongst, Jesus must be  |                                  |          |               | ·                        |  |
| WHY DOES RISE CHURCH HAVE UNITY AND DIVERSITY?  |                                  |          |               |                          |  |
| We keep   | We keep at the center and invite |          | to encou      | to encounter the Gospel. |  |
| When a church pursues unity as identity, we're willing to reach outside of our, and to pursue people with the message of Jesus. |                                  |          |               |                          |  |
| Christians often expect way too much of people and culture the church,  |                                  |          |               |                          |  |
| while expecting way too little of people and culture the church.  |                                  |          |               |                          |  |
| We invite people to experience peace with God they experience peace with  |                                  |          |               |                          |  |
|   | TO REALLY FOLLOW JESUS, WE MUST: |          |               |                          |  |
|   | 1 ourselves before God.          |          |               |                          |  |
|   | 2. Allow the                     | to s     | trengthen us. |                          |  |
|   | 3. Experience the                | of Chris | t.            |                          |  |