

## 1 ☐ **Unity-Mark of a Maturing Church**

### Part Three

Ephesians 3:1-13

2 ☐

- The mysteries of Mithras were celebrated by male initiates (of which there were seven grades) in underground temples in which there were representations of their god slaying a bull.  
*Nelson's New Christian Dictionary*

## 3 ☐ **The Church is a Mystery**

## 4 ☐ **Degree of Animosity**

- “After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered.” (Acts 5:37, ESV)

## 5 ☐ **The Mystery is a Unifying Principle**

2

- Eph. 1:9-10
- Eph. 2:14
- Eph. 5:32
- Gen. 12:3

6 ☐

2

- “Men of Israel, come to our aid! This is the man who preaches to all men everywhere against our people and the Law and this place; and besides he has even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”

Acts 21:28

## 7 ☐ **Paul Hated for His Teaching**

- “Rid the earth of Him, he’s not fit to live.”

– For saying this...

- ...that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel...

## 8 ☐ **All Together Now**

9 ☐

Paul makes it very clear that God’s unveiled secret (“mystery”) has to do not merely with an *alliance* of Jew and Gentile, or perhaps a friendly *agreement* to live together in peace, or even an outward *combination* or *partnership*, but, on the contrary, with a complete and permanent *fusion*, a perfect spiritual union of formerly clashing elements into *one* new organism...In God’s house there are no boarders; all are children.  
Hendriksen-Kistemaker---

## 10 ☐ **Together with Israel**

1

Galatians 3:29 (NASB)

*And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.*

2 The spiritual promise of eternal salvation and blessing given to Abraham belongs to all those who belong to Christ. They are all heirs according to that promise, which is fulfilled in Christ.  
--John MacArthur

11  **Application of this truth...**

2 • "...there is no inner circle or outer circle of the saved. The Jews are not first rate Christians and the Gentiles second rate Christians, or vice versa."

--Boice--

12 

1 **The major causes for disunity are the sinful attitudes of the heart.**

2 Matthew 15:19 (NASB)

*"For out of the heart come evil thoughts..."*

James 4:1 (NASB)

*What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?*

13  **Paul's warning...**

Ephesians 4:17-18 (NASB)

*So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart*


14 

15 

1 D.Martyn Lloyd Jones, said this happens as we grow in love and knowledge of the One who has brought us together.

2 2 Peter 3:18 (NASB)

*...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory...*

16  **It is a knowledge and appreciation of these things that will draw us together. Boice**

- We are all equally sinners...
- We are equally helpless...
- We have all come to one and the same Savior...
- We have the same salvation...
- We have the same Holy Spirit...
- We have the same Father...
- We even have the same trials...
- We are all marching and going together to the same eternal home...

--D.Martyn Lloyd Jones--

17  **Together in the Promise**

18  **What is God Doing?**

- 1
- 2

The Church is the Focal Point of History

*...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Eph. 3:10-11, ESV

19 

“Secular history concentrates its attention on kings, queens, and presidents on politicians and generals, in fact on VIPS. The Bible concentrates rather on a group of people it calls the saints, often little people, insignificant people, unimportant people, who are at the same time God’s people—and for that reason are both unknown to the world and yet well known to God.”

John Stott

20  **The Manifold Wisdom of God**

- 2

Ephesians 3:9 (NASB)

*...and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things*

21 

- 1
- 2

Angels worshipping

Ephesians 3:10 (NASB)

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

22  **A Prayer for the Binding Together in Love (Eph. 3:14-21)**

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NASB)

*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*