

Ephesians 3 • Rooting and grounding ourselves in love

¹ 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 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 God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Why was Paul in prison, and what do you think he meant by referring to himself as “a prisoner of Christ Jesus”?
- ▶ “You Gentiles” (3:1)... what’s a Gentile?
- ▶ Notice how Paul describes his mission in 3:2. What does he mean? Acts 9:10-15 and Romans 11:13 might be helpful here...
- ▶ The apostle Paul reveals something very, very important in 3:4. Why is it important?
- ▶ What is this “mystery” that has now been revealed through the gospel, and why is it such good news?
- ▶ Why would Paul describe himself the way that he does in 3:8? Who had Paul been before he started believing in Jesus? His own words in 1 Timothy 1:12-16 might be helpful here...

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.

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Something really important seems to have been said in **3:9-10**. How does the church show God's wisdom in a very special way?
- ▶ According to **3:12**, what can any disciple have through Jesus Christ?
- ▶ Again, we can see the work and role of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit in **3:14-19**. What have each of them done to make a big difference in our lives?
- ▶ In your own words, what is it going to mean for Christ to “dwell in” your heart “through faith”?
- ▶ Let's think for a few minutes together about being “rooted and grounded in” something. What sort of things do people get “rooted and grounded in”? What difference does that make? And why is “love” the best possible place to be “rooted and grounded”?
- ▶ What should we remember this week in light of **3:20**?