

A Mystery Revealed

Introduction

- A biblical mystery (**μυστήριον**) is truth that is hidden or beyond human understanding (1Co. 2:7).
- A biblical mystery is intended for & profitable to people when God reveals it at the proper time (Col. 1:26).
- A biblical mystery can be revealed to some people in a group & still remain hidden to others in the same group (Mk. 4:11-12).

I. Jesus Christ Breaks Down Walls (Eph. 2:13-16)

- A. All sinners are the same to Christ (Eph. 2:1-2, 12)

*There are two great commandments & sin has built a wall to prevent obedience to both (Mt. 22:37-39; Rom. 8:7-8; 1Jn. 3:14-15). All people have the same sin problem (Eph. 2:1-2, 12; Rom. 3:23). **There are not & cannot be two kinds or categories of sinners – none righteous, no, not one.***

- B. All saints are the same to Christ (Eph. 2:13-16)

*Christ broke down both walls of sin – separation from God & neighbor. All saints in Christ have a right relationship with God – “brought near” (v. 13). All saints in Christ have a right relationship with each other (v. 14-16) – “peace”, “made us both one”, “broke down...”, “one new man”, “reconcile us both”. **There is not & cannot be multiple ways to break down the wall of sin – Jesus said, “I am the way...”.***

ILL: As a high school senior, Dan took an interest in Lindenwood University & the athletic department (field & track) took an interest in him. They had a tradition of pursuing talent out of state & overlooking local athletes. Problems with athletes’ longevity resulted... Therefore the athletic director broke that tradition (wall) that prevented many talented local athletes from entering LU.

APPL: In a similar way, Christ had to break down the wall of sin that kept people of all types from entering the kingdom of God. He broke thru for sinners who were curious, interested & seeking but were still lost. So everyone can know that Jesus is the way, truth & life; He is the door to the sheep...

II. The Church Keeps Down Walls (Eph. 3:4-10)

- A. All saints are the same to each other (3:4-9)

*The NT reveals the mystery much clearer than the OT – all believes are the same (v. 4-6). **Humility** is essential in the church – “very least of all saints” (v. 7-8a). **Grace** is essential in all ministries (v. 8b-c). **Revelation** from the Holy Spirit is essential for effectiveness (v. 9) – *He brings light & understanding so no one can boast. “the plan” is so great, wonderful, profound that it must be revealed.**

- B. All saints have the same goal (3:10).

All saints are to bring glory to God on earth (Mt. 5:16; 1Co. 10:31) & in heaven (Eph. 3:10) (angels & heavenly beings do not & cannot know this mystery until the church fulfills it). This mystery involves “manifold wisdom” – diverse in nature. God has diverse purposes using diverse people with diverse gifts & ministries (multi-racial, cultural, ethnic, gender, age, education, gifts, ministries, etc.). Neither the saints on earth nor the angels in heaven knew this until God revealed it. The church is to be a reflection of the saints gathered in heaven – “heavenly places” (Rev. 7:9-10).

The Holy Spirit works unity within the diversity of the saints for the church to bring glory to God.