



ENOGERA BAPTIST CHURCH
Jesus changes lives

EPHESIANS: PART #2 THE CHURCH



Ephesians #8 – A Church that Reveals the Wisdom of God (3:1-13)

“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.”

Ephesians 3:6

NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

HOUSEKEEPING

Things going at the moment:

- **Prayer Night** – 16th October at 7:00pm. Home Group’s will meet at Church instead of their usual house location.
- **Alpha Course! Thursday nights – Be praying for us**
 - **Pray** – God’s Spirit to draw people and open up their hearts.



EPHESIANS #8 – A CHURCH THAT REVEALS THE WISDOM OF GOD (3:1-13)

REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion by reflecting on the ideas in this week's message. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who have missed the sermons on Sunday
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?

DIG INTO THE WORD

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

Ephesians 3:1-13

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of 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. ⁸To 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, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real-life implications of the study.

1. **DISCUSS:** How are we to apply these things? Are there any immediate implications?



2. **GOD'S PLAN MISUNDERSTOOD:** *Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Acts 10:44-11:18*
 - a. What were the promises of God to Abraham? Notice the final blessing, do you find that the Jews forgot this aspect of the idea of God "blessing them so they could be a blessing"?
 - b. What happens in Acts 10 that surprised Peter and caused the Jewish-Christians to glorify God together (Acts 11:18)?
 - c. How did the Early New Testament have to change in response to what God showed Peter?
 - i. Gentiles were also granted access to God's kingdom!
3. **GOD'S WISDOM JOINING THE CHURCH IN UNITY:** *Read verse 1-6.*
 - a. What is the 'mystery of Christ' that has been made known?
 - b. Now that this mystery has been revealed, do Jews and Gentiles share in the same blessings/promises given to those who are in-Christ (v6)?
 - c. Can you think of any examples in Church that show our "Unity in Diversity"?
4. **GOD'S WISDOM SHAPING THE CHURCH'S MESSAGE:** *Read verses 7-13.*
 - a. *The Gospel opens the doors of God's kingdom to all people.* What is God's manifold wisdom?
 - i. *That the church would make known the mystery that's been hidden until now.*
 - b. How do we, as the Church, show God's manifold wisdom?
 - i. *By our unity and fellowship as the Body of Christ.*
 - ii. *By the love that we have for one another (John 13:34-35).*
5. **APPLICATION**
 - a. Who is God calling you to proclaim His mystery to? How might you do it? (*be both specific and general here if you can*).
 - b. *The Church is God's trophy cabinet that shows **everyone** His grace and wisdom.* How will this affect your attitude about going to church this Sunday (and Sunday's to come!)? How does this affect your attitude towards fellowship and unity with your church family at Enoggera?

PRAY

Pray for one another as we seek to embrace our true identity in Christ.

Spend some time in prayer giving thanks to God for the salvation He has provided for us in Christ, and that Unity in our fellowship would continually strengthen as we seek to be united with one another despite the various differences we could have.



ENOGERA BAPTIST CHURCH
Jesus changes lives

NOTES

1:3–3:21 *Calling of the Church Within Christ's Cosmic Reconciliation.* Paul unfolds for his readers God's eternal plan to unify all things in Christ, and explains how the church is to understand its call and identity—who it is, how it came about, and what its mission is within this plan.

REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

- ESV Study Bible, Crossway.
- NIV Zondervan Study Bible.