

EPHESIANS 3 vs 1

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Paul, who was Jewish, just told us about how through Jesus Christ the two: the Jewish people and the non-Jewish Gentiles are made one, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being the chief corner stone. And they are being built into a holy dwelling, of God through His Spirit



¹ **For this cause, I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ** / many times, Paul was thrown into prison as he traveled the roman empire preaching the Good News... but notice, he is not really talking about that. Here, he says what holds him captive.

I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ, for you Gentiles / for the **ethnos**; all the non-Jewish nations and peoples,

² **If you heard of the dispensation** / the **oikonomia**; where comes the word: **economy**; and we know what economy means... as we observe the misappropriation of funds in our time given to worthless politicians, thieves and robbers, to govern the nations. Paul talks about God's economy; how God manages and oversees His household affairs.

If you heard of the house rules / the economy of the grace of God which is given me to you / Paul says: God runs His kingdom in every generation **by grace**. God's household is effectively managed by the power of God's grace:

³ **how that by revelation** / by **apokalupsis**; by revealing, uncovering His word. Knowing this truth comes from the Spirit of God who reveals; it does not come any other way.

He made known to me the mystery / the **musterion**; this mystery was a great mystery -- a secret of the will of God concerning Jesus the Messiah, good news and fellowship... previously planned. God likes a good mystery, too! In Matthew 13 and Luke 10; Jesus repeatedly said to His disciples, [to you has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God](#); which is no longer a mystery; and Paul says,

as I wrote before in few words / he said briefly in chapter 1; and mentions 6 times in this letter,

⁴ **whereby, when you read, you can know my knowledge in the mystery of Christ** / the word is: **noieo**; it is what we know... or think we know, part of that **METANOEO** word meaning: **change our mind**: something we need to do regularly. Paul wants us to exercise our minds as he writes about his knowledge; and what is knowledge? it is the necessary information needed, to act appropriately; his **sunesis**... precisely, his **mental putting it together** piece by piece this good news is no longer a mystery...

⁵ **which to other ages** / in other generations, **was not made known to the sons of men, as it is now revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit**;

And now, Paul tells us more about the once unknown mystery...

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6 That the Gentiles should also be joint-heirs and joint-members / all the non-Jewish people; said differently: Paul talks about **all nations**; can you imagine? **no separate but equal members**. Hmm? women... equal to men?! who have come from one blood, Adam's race. Wow! More precisely: **same body**... because there is only ONE Body! You know, in every generation... God always sends the stranger and foreigner into our gatherings and assemblies, just to see how they are treated,

and joint-partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel:

And did you hear that? Paul is writing to **the Gentiles**. Notice he did **not** say: to **the Christians**. Now, I bet some Christians are Gentiles. You know, there are some people that go around saying (well yelling), or at best asking like inquisitors: ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?! Nope! That is not Paul. He is writing to Gentiles.

Are you a Gentile? Then Paul is writing to you. He is writing to the growing Body of the disciples of the Lord Jesus... whoever they are, wherever he finds them! Lifelong learners... young and old who discover they, too are chosen by God. The danger of chosen people... is that they tend to like their privilege, don't they? Well, that's not why they were chosen. It is our privilege to be responsible; not prideful. And this letter is directed to those who previously were: foreigners... and acrobats... that they too... should be:

joint-heirs,

and joint-members,

and joint-partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel / and that's Good News!

7 to this I was made a minister / diakonos; a deacon; and what do deacons do?

1. They shout at the top of their lungs: [Glory to God in the highest](#)... and sing the praises of the Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord... in such a joyous way... that common folk will stop and say: let's go check it out!
2. [They stand silently at the cross](#)... while Jesus does all the talking.
3. [They clean tables and serve meals](#)... and probably scrub toilets, too; and then give their last breath for Jesus Christ. Now days, unlike Paul... some people think they are above all those important activities.

I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God

given to me by the effectual working of His power / Paul as a **deacon**, he was energized by God's spiritual dynamite... that alone can crack through hard-heads. God's power is... powerful. Now days, it seems that TV cameras zoom in on fizzles... and sputters... and all that human effort. That's not God's power.

Paul is still amazed by God's power; he says the power and energizing of God was amazing and humbling;

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⁸ to me, the very least of all saints / hagios; it is the same word for: **holy**. Paul who had caused people to deny their faith; who with the violence of a terrorist... went about destroying the early church, until the power of God grabbed him and threw him down! Paul knew he should have been dead! And for all his life, God graciously made sure... he never forgot.

is this grace given / it is always and only by God's grace. It's a gift; given to all of us with no merit involved. It is a gift from our Father God. The reformers spelled it out:

Sola Scripture; **solo** faith; **solo** God! **solo** Christ! **solo** grace!

that I preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ / anexichniaston; Paul tells us, this costly, inestimably valuable mystery... **it's about Christ**; not to be copied and not to be imitated by anyone; and who wants a cheap imitation, anyways?

⁹ and to make all men see / phōtisai; it's a photon word; like turning a prism and showing all spectrums of color... seeing all the multicolored rays of light; describing...

what is the economy of the mystery / God's household economy and ruling; what is the Father's secret plan of how He runs His house. God can keep a secret even in eternity;

which from the beginning of the world, has been concealed by God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

And why did He do that?

¹⁰ to the intent that the principalities and powers in the heavenlies / the archais; and **exousiais**; like rulers, the regional monarchies; and authorities like large systems managers; in chapter 1, Paul talked about these diverse spiritual powers -- both good and bad rulers in heaven. Paul says: these rulers watch... from the heavens... observing this mystery unfold; at the end of this letter, he speaks about the spiritual battle going on!

that principalities and powers in heaven... now come to know through the church the manifold / the multi-colored...

Wisdom of God / Christ is the Wisdom of God. And He is best known through the church He is building. Pause and put it together: this verse includes even the rebellious 1/3rd of heaven -- all those dimwits. God was not just singing to the choir. He makes everyone in heaven pay attention; all those powerful onlookers, the good and bad ones all observing from eternity.

God will have the last laugh, through all us stumble bums on earth who make up: **the Love of His Life** -- the church... He is building! / God our Father is pretty smart; isn't He?! And He's a good Teacher, too!



EPHESIANS 3 vs 1

11 According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord / which THEY planned long ago, it was a rescue plan, in case it was needed; planned in the beginning:

12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him / here, we learn: God our Father isn't a talker only, He's a father; He acts in faith, too – He's the Father of fathers!

13 Wherefore / And why did he say that?

I desire that you do not faint at my tribulations for you, which is your glory / don't lose heart at my tribulations. Use my troubles as your opportunity to boast about the Lord... who helps us!

14 For this cause, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 for whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named / you know, there is only one family that matters; with one Father. And if there is any question to whom Paul bows down, it sure wasn't Peter. Any other pretender of fatherhood, who dreams he is over this family is a freak or pervert!

For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,

to be empowered with His might by His Spirit in the inner man;

17 that Christ dwells in your heart by faith;

that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 with enough strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, length, depth and height;

19 and to know the love of Christ which super-exceeds knowledge, the word is: **uperballousan...** the Son's great love which exceeds all other acts of love. Now days in baseball, we would say: it was not just a home run, **but He hit the ball out of the park!**

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down their life for a friend; here Paul says about a foundation established by God our Father... built on love; Paul says to all in the household of God, **to seize;** reach and grasp: what Christ Jesus did for us, let it settle in; let it be at home in your mind and heart; know, and seek to comprehend the incomprehensible, to know every dimension of love -- not only the Father's love, but also of His lovely Son who is HIS costly glory, His reason to boast. John said: Christ Jesus is the Glory of God. God our Father loves to brag about His only begotten Son -- Jesus Christ our Lord

that you be filled up to all the fullness of God.

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²⁰ **Now to Him who empowers** to do super-abundantly... beyond all we ask or think,
according to the power that energizes within us,

²¹ Δόξα ... **Glory to Him... in the church**

the **ἐκκλησία**, the word is: **ekklesia**. In some countries, young people grow up, thinking there is only one church. Well, that is true. It is the church Jesus told us about; He said, **I will build My church**... it is **the Love of His Life -- His Bride** -- His people... made without even one brick or stone... or blockhead. Paul said... made of Jewish and Gentile peoples... being made into one dwelling of God by His Spirit:

To Him be glory... in the church

by Christ Jesus through all ages, forever and ever. Amen!

[In Christ Alone](#) | [Every Praise](#) | [This is My Father's World](#)

Check out: Our Brothers and Sisters Around The World Singing GOD'S Praise: [The Songlist](#)

[JESUS it is YOU](#) | [The Bible & the Myth of Race](#)

[O Come Let Us Adore Him](#) | [I Could Sing of Your Love Forever](#)