

**‘The Mystery of the Church’
(Ephesians 5:30 - 32)**

Intro: Generally, mysteries, or religious secrets, are confided only to the _____ and not to ordinary mortals. Here the Apostle Paul is one of the initiated in that he has been shown by the Holy Spirit of God something that has been hither-to unseen by the Old Testament prophets. Which by the way, is this dispensation of the church age. And even in this dispensation, the Jews then and now have a hard time accepting this aspect of God’s program. (**Gal. 3:21 – 29**)

And so, this is the mystery, or as the definition would have it, this mystery is being explained to the Jews who had come to a saving faith in Christ who _____ if the Gentiles were taking a shortcut by not first proselytizing and going through the ceremony of circumcision and embracing the Law of Moses etc., before qualifying to become a Christian.

I. There is the mystery of the _____ – Ephesians 5:30 – 32.

- A. Remember also that the word ‘church’ as translated into English is the Greek word, ekklesia, meaning a _____ of people, or assembly of people for a common cause which in this case is a gathering of Believers in Christ.
- B. From our text, verse 32, it is the only time we see the word “ _____ ” is associated with the word ‘mystery’.
 - 1. The word ‘great’ here comes from the Greek word “megas” defined in part as things _____ highly for their importance: of great moment, of great weight, importance.
 - 2. It is to be recognized that this mystery of which Paul speaks is of the _____ importance in that there has never been any mystery this important.
 - 3. And Paul being called by God has been _____ to reveal this mystery to both Jew and Gentile. Initially so uncomfortable were some if not all the disciples, that Paul even had to _____ them in Jerusalem. (**Galatians 2:14 & Acts 15:24 28**)
 - 4. It was in the average Jewish mindset that Jew and Gentile do not _____ company, and if we remember Peter’s call to the house of Cornelious, a Roman centurion and the call was to present the Gospel to him and his household. Peter _____ what he was going to say to the Jewish brethren. (**Acts 10:1 – 11:1 – 18 (10:28 & 11:1 – 4)**)
 - 5. Now, in Christ we find Jew and Gentile to be added into _____ body, the body of Christ.
- C. This ‘great mystery’ is in reference to a supernatural, spiritual _____ that takes place when one comes to faith in Christ. They are baptized (emersed) by the Holy Spirit into the body of Jesus Christ and become an actual part of Him. **Galatians 3:27** –

1. The word ‘baptized’ here is not something we do, but is _____ to us when we accept Christ as our Savior – (Tense – Aorist; Voice – passive; mood – indicative.)
 2. We are _____ into Christ by the Holy Spirit of God. The words, ‘**have put on**’ is the idea of sinking into. (Bapto verses baptizmo - one is a dipping the other is emersed.)
- D. There is also the mystery of the church being Christ’s _____ – **Revelation 22:16 – 17**.
1. This is not complicated as the Bride of Christ is comprised of Born-again Believers.
 2. The Bride of Christ is ___ made up of denominations, only the Redeemed of the Lord.
 - a. **Galatians 3:13** is clear that regardless of one’s race, color or nationality, if one has come a saving faith in the person of Christ they _____ be part of the Bride of Christ, this goes for Jew and Gentile alike.
 - b. Man has got to let go of the idea of dividing mankind by _____. There is only one race, the human race and the human race is divided by two realities, saved and unsaved.
 - c. It doesn’t take any more of God’s _____ to save one human being over another as **Romans 10:12 & 13** states - “**For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**” And or **Luke 19:10** – “**For the Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**”
 - d. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not _____ against anyone who has a desire to be saved and recognizes that Jesus Christ is the only way and who will place their faith in the person and the work of Christ on our behalf – **Romans 10:9 & 10**.
 3. This will probably shock some people about our eternal destiny:
 - a. We have been saved for the purpose of being able to _____ the Lord.
 - b. We have also been saved to show our love by _____ the Lord.
 - c. Many have asked the question, what will we be doing in heaven and eternity?”
 - d. the short and serious answer is – “That depends” on how we walk in and with the Lord. What we will be able to do in heaven and eternity is based on _____ here and now.
 - e. Salvation is _____ based on our meritocracy, but on faith and faith alone – Ephesians 2:8 & 9.
 - f. However, _____ and responsibilities metered out in co-reigning with Christ are based on our faithfulness to Him here and now, or what we merit. There’ll be no D.E.I in heaven or in eternity. (The parable of the talents in **Luke 19:11 – 27**)
 - g. We have been purchased by a price we could never earn or accumulate, so everyone will only ever become part of the Bride of Christ by faith and faith alone.
 4. Mystery – things hidden to the ungodly, but not the godly!