

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 27 (#912207)
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 27 – How Does The Way You Live Reflect Christ?

TUESDAY

OPEN

How does the way you live reflect as to who your commander and chief is as to who is ruling your life as to what kingdom you belong to? You know if you belong to Jesus Christ there’s a way that you and I are to walk. There’s a way we are to talk. There is a way that we are to live. And you know what? Not only the people on this earth are witnessing that way, but even the rulers in heaven. We’ll talk about it today.

PART ONE

Do you realize my friend that when God saved you He didn’t save you just to take you to heaven, but He saved you to show you off to the powers and the rulers that are in heaven right now? As a matter of fact the way that you and I live is very important not only for the people down here on earth, but

for rulers and authorities and principalities and powers. God saved you Beloved to show you off and to show the world what it's like to belong to Him, but also to show rulers and authorities and principalities what God has wrought in Christ Jesus on your behalf, on behalf of the whole world, not just Jews, but people from every tribe and tongue and nation. And so as Paul talks about the mystery of Christ, this mystery of Jew and Gentile in one body which was revealed to the holy apostles and to the prophets and which Paul was made a minister of as he took this gospel to the Gentile world, God wants us to see that He has a big picture in mind. And sometimes you know if we don't understand the big picture then we really don't know how important our behavior is. God wants to show you off. And He wants to use you as an example. He wants to use you as a witness. He wants to use you as a testimony. He wants to use you in a sense as a trophy of His grace. He wants to take your life and He wants it to be so filled with the knowledge of Him and so understanding of His love towards you and His power towards you that all the world will look and be absolutely amazed absolutely astounded. And I've got to tell you that's what happened in my life after I got saved. You know before I got saved I was married. I was divorced. I had two boys. And I was living in Baltimore, Maryland and I was a nurse and I was working on a research team on growth retardation at Johns Hopkins Hospital. And I started running around with a group of guys. I don't know where the girls were. But we just became friends. And I mean we were just friends. That's all, nothing was going on. But they would come over to the house and we would hang out and we would talk and just have a good time and really enjoy one another. Well when I came to know Jesus Christ and I remember they were sitting at the house and they were looking at me and I mean it was just a few days after I became saved after I became part of the church of Jesus Christ, part of the body of Jesus Christ with Christ in me the hope of glory. And we were sitting there and one of them just looked at me and he began to shake his head. And I said what are you shaking your head

at? He says you. And I said what are you shaking your head at me for? He says you're so you're so you're so beautiful. Before I was so sexy. Now you're so beautiful. You're so kind. You're so you know. There was a change. He didn't understand that Jesus had changed me until seeing that change. I mean I told him about it, but seeing that change I would be able to explain to him hey, it is Christ in me. Now that is a mystery as well as the mystery of the church that is Jew and Gentile in one body. But it's this mystery of salvation that we see, the mystery of the incarnation of God in Christ, the mystery of Christ in us, the mystery of Jew and Gentile in one body is this awesome awesome mysteries that go with salvation that make us a witness to the world. Let me show it to you. First of all we'll start in Ephesians so let's study together and if you haven't gone to our website [preceptsforlife](http://preceptsforlife.com) you need to go there and discover more about this Ministry but also to download your free study guide. We're only in Ephesians chapter 3 and we still have chapter 4, 5, & 6 to go and there is much to learn Beloved. And it is much that is going to transform your life. And it is my prayer Precious One as we pray for you before we do any of these programs we are in earnest prayer for you that God knowing that you would be hearing this truth at this time would speak to your heart and that He would use it to discern the thoughts and intents of your heart and He would use it to establish you in His Word so that you wouldn't be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. We want you to discover truth for yourself. So in Ephesians chapter 3, Ephesians chapter 3 and he's been talking about the mystery. We've marked the word "mystery" in verse 3. We've marked it in verse 4, "**...the mystery of Christ**" and we have seen that in verse 6 the mystery of Christ is explained to us here as Jew and Gentile in one body. Now he says in verse 7 "**of which I was made a minister....**" (Ephesians 3:7a) Now that word "minister" means it's like the word "diakonos," it's like the word for deacon and it means to minister to serve. He says I wasn't elevated to this high spot. And you have to know that God is the only one

that is to be elevated. He alone is to be exalted. He shares His glory with no man. So when we come to know Him we’re made a servant. He says **“of [whom] I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.” (3:7)** Now that word “power” is “dunamis” and “dunamis” is a power that enables you to perform. He says **“To me, the very least of all the saints...,” (3:8a)** and he counted himself least of all the saints because he counted himself in 1 Timothy as chief of sinners because here he was a religious Jew and here he was persecuting the very church of Jesus Christ, the very body of Jesus Christ. And he was hauling these Jews and putting them into prison and consenting to their death because they had followed Christ. And so he sees himself as the least of all the saints. He says **“...this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light,”** now this I put “bring to light” in bright yellow in my Bible, **“...to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery...” (3:8-9a)** Now remember we’re putting a black cloud around “mystery” and then we’re coloring the inside purple to show that it’s a royal mystery. All right **“...to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things,” (3:9)** now watch, **“so that the manifold wisdom of God...,”** the great varied incomprehensible wisdom of God with all of its aspects and all of its facets of truth, **“so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church...”** Now that’s the body of Jesus Christ, that’s the temple of God, that’s this living building that is made up of human stones, you and me. **“So that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and...authorities in the heavenly places.” (3:10)** Now remember “in the heavenly places” is one of the key phrases that we are marking in the book of Ephesians. And we saw in Ephesians chapter 1 that it’s used for the first time in verse 3 where it says **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has**

“blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places....” (1:3)

So in Ephesians “heavenly places” are very very important. And what I want us to do is get out your piece of paper again and draw your straight line which stands for the earth, okay. And up in the heavens up to the top of that line up high on the page I just want you to draw a cloud. All right that cloud represents heavenly places. Now don’t draw it too close to the very top of the page. Sorry I didn’t tell you that. Turn your paper over if you didn’t get it. And then I’m going to put a dark cloud for “heavenly places” and then above that I am going to put a triangle to represent God and to represent God’s throne. And then down here on earth I’m going to draw again a little stick figure and in that stick figure’s hand I’m going to put a cross and I’m putting a cross so that you can know that that stick figure represents a believer. It represents a member of the body of Jesus Christ. It represents a child of God. It doesn’t matter whether it’s Jew or Gentile because now in Christ [“there’s neither Jew nor Gentile, there’s neither bond nor free, there’s neither male nor female because we’re all one”] Galatians says [“in Christ.”] (Paraphrased, Galatians 3:28) And so represents a child of God. Now what you need to know is and I’m going to drop two eyeballs out of that black cloud. All right there is a heavenly host that is looking down on earth that’s looking at you that’s looking at me, that’s looking at all the people down through the generations that have professed to belong to Jesus Christ from the time of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ there are powers and rulers and authorities in heavenly places that are looking down at us. And as they look at us you know what, God wants to show us off. God wants to show us off so that as heaven looks down as these rulers and authorities look down and between those two eyeballs I’m going to put two dots for a nose and then I’m going to put a mouth wide open because what the heavenly powers and rulers and authorities ought to be saying is Oh! Ah! My goodness! Over what? We’ll talk about it right after the break.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. Well as you look at our drawing remember we have this black cloud in the heavens with two eyeballs dropping down to earth looking at what’s going on and their mouth is open in amazement. Now what is happening? Well we’ve got to look at a very important word. All right and it is the word “administration”. If you’ve been studying with us since the beginning of Ephesians then you know about this word. If you’ve downloaded your study guide, if you’ve gone to “preceptsforlife.com” and downloaded it then you know about this word. You know what the Greek word is and you know that it is talking about the ordering of household affairs, the management, the laying out, the economy of taking care of a business, taking care of a house. It uses the word “stewardship” also. Let me show you this word. In Ephesians chapter 1 this is what he says. He says that **“He...,”** in verse 9, **“[has] made known to us the mystery of His will, according to [the] kind intention which He purposed in Him [in Christ] with a view to an administration....”** That’s the word “administration”, the ordering of affairs. **“...Suitable to the fullness of times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ...,”** now watch what he says, **“...things in heaven and things on earth....” (Ephesians 1:9-10)** So eventually everything is going to be summed up in Jesus Christ. And that summing up begins first of all with the first coming of Jesus Christ. So I’m going to put a cross here to the left of my drawing of my stick figure and my cloud. So it starts with the coming of Jesus Christ who came in the fullness of times. And then Jesus Christ goes to heaven, so we have the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven. And then we have the second coming of Jesus Christ when He leaves heaven and when He comes and He sets up His throne down here on earth where He is going to rule as King of kings and Lord of lords. And every nation is going to be required to

come up to Jerusalem according to Zechariah chapter 14 every single year at the Feast of Tabernacles to worship the Lord. And if they don't come then He's going to punish that nation by stopping the rain. So this is what we see. We see in the coming of Jesus Christ, in the first coming the cross. And in the second coming in between those two things you and I are living down here on earth and we are to live in such a way that we show to those principalities and powers God's administration, God's plan to sum up all things in Christ so that the powers and the rulers and authorities might see the awesome staggering grace of God, the manifold wisdom of God in this incredible plan of salvation an incredible plan that God reveals stage by stage by stage until finally you and I have the completed Word of God and having the completed Word of God we have everything that we need to know, everything that explains to us what has passed and what is going to come to pass, the new heaven and the new earth as well as the old heaven and the old earth. And so he takes us from Alpha to Omega. Now when he does this he has an administration suitable to the fullness of time. So this administration that is suitable to the fullness of time and look at the cross and then come over to you receiving the cross, this mystery of the church is part of this administration. Now go from there to chapter 3 since we're in chapter 3 and look at what Paul says in verse 2 of chapter 3. **"If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;"** The "stewardship" of God's grace. That word as I've told you earlier is "o-i-k-o-n-o-m-i-a" and basically it is the same word for administration. It is the "stewardship." Now look at 1 Corinthians chapter 4, 1 Corinthians chapter 4 where Paul uses it. And this is what he says in verse 1: **"Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ...."** (1 Corinthians 4:1a) So he's told us already that he has been made a minister, a servant of Christ. So he's talking about the apostles and he says **"Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and as stewards....,"** and that's the same word for a management of a house, **"...as stewards of the mysteries**

of God.” (4:1b) And there you see the word “mystery”. So he says these mysteries have been revealed to us. Now what are those mysteries? Well I told you first of all the first mystery is the deity of Jesus Christ. It is God and I’m going to put a stick figure here to represent Jesus before the cross and then I’m going to put that stick figure in a triangle and the triangle represents God. So it’s God in Christ. That’s one mystery, the mystery of the incarnation. Here is a human being that is not just man but is the God-Man. And it says **“In the beginning...,”** in John 1, **“...was the Word, ...the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.” (John 1:1-2)** So that’s one mystery. The second mystery is Christ in you and this is what Colossians chapter 1 says, **“...Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:27b)** The assurance that because Christ is in you then you are going to live with Him forever and ever. That’s the hope of glory. The third mystery is the mystery of Jew and Gentile in one body. Now the way that we carry this out is a witness to the principalities and to the powers in high places. So go back to Ephesians chapter 3. In Ephesians chapter 3, this is what he says. **“...to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery...” (3:9a),** verse 10 **“so that the manifold wisdom of God might...be made known through the church to the rulers and...authorities in...heavenly places.” (Ephesians 3:10)** In other words what we have up here in this dark cloud is we have a whole host of angels of demons and of Satan himself. We have good angels and we have bad angels. You can draw a good angel and put a halo over its head. I just put a circle and then something that looks like wings. But anyway, and that’s a good angel. Then you have a bad angel. The halo has fallen. And then what you have is Satan and I just put horns on him and a pitch fork in his hand and a little tail on him. And that’s just to represent Satan. So what you have is you have a whole angelic host up there. You have cherubim. You have seraphim. You have good angels warring against the bad angels and they’re all in heaven. And these are angelic beings, now listen, that made a

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choice. Some of them chose to follow God. Some of them chose to go with Satan and this is what you see in Revelation chapter 12, in Revelation chapter 12. It's about Satan and it says in verse 3 that **"...another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon..."** Now he tells us that this dragon in verse 9 is Satan. And so it says **"...his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth..."** (Revelation 12:4a) In other words we know from studying about Satan that a certain group of angels went with Satan. The way you and I live down here on earth, Beloved, and we're going to talk about it in the next program, but the way that you and I live down here on earth testifies who we belong to. It shows how passionate am I for God. How zealous am I for the things of God? How earnest am I in demonstrating to the world and to angelic beings that are watching me that I am a child of the King of kings? That's your question for today. We'll continue the teaching in the next program.