

# MYSTERY, MINISTERS, AND MANIFOLD WISDOM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPHESIANS 3:1-11

**1** What is the “mystery” of Ephesians 3? What does the timing of the mystery demonstrate?

 What was difficult for the Jews to accept about the mystery?

 What was the miracle the Gentiles discovered about the mystery?

 What does the mystery mean to you personally?

**2** How would you explain to someone the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament?

 The gospel “was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets (v. 5).” Have you ever realized that you are in a more privileged position than the Israelites who heard God at Mt. Sinai, or even the Old Testament prophets?[1]

**3** What do you think of when you hear the word “church?” Think of two or three adjectives which summarize your attitude and experience of the church.

 Reflect on what has made church difficult and what made it special. When have you had a particularly powerful experience in the church?[2]

**4** If you were imprisoned for your faith like Paul, do you think it would make you stronger or discourage you?

 What steps can you take to strengthen your faith to face all kinds of challenges?[3]

5 Why should missionaries have a solid grasp on the essentials of the faith?

*What are the marks of a Christ-centered missionary, as outlined by Paul?*

*How might you grow in your understanding of sound doctrine?*

6 Pick out all the things that Paul says about his ministry in Eph 3:7-13. In what way are these relevant to your Christian life and experience?

7 What does Paul mean by the principalities and powers in the heavenly places (3:10)?

*How and why is “the manifold wisdom of God” to be made known to them?*

8 “No one is in a church accidentally and no one is unnecessary.” Do you view yourself too highly or too lowly when it comes to your church? And who in your church needs encouragement to see that they are not there accidentally or unnecessarily?[4] (Ephesians for You)

9 Your church is a trophy cabinet of God’s grace and wisdom. How will this affect your attitude about going to church next Sunday?

*How will knowing this encourage you to share Christ with others and invite them to church?*

*What are practical ways you can demonstrate that you value the church as you prepare for worship next Sunday?[5]*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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[1] Coekin, Ephesians For You, 83.

[2] Andrew T. LePeau and Phyllis J. LePeau, Ephesians: Wholeness for a Broken World (Downers Grove: IVP Connect, 2000), 23.

[3] Tony Merida, Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Ephesians (Nashville: Holman, 2014), 80.

[4] Coekin, Ephesians For You, 94.

[5] Coekin, Ephesians For You, 94.