

The Mystery of the Body of Christ, the Church Age (05)

The main point of today's mystery doctrine:

(Eph.3:6) "(To be specific, that) **the Gentiles are** (eimi / p.a.infin) fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following four homiletical points regarding The Mystery of the Body of Christ, the Church (Eph.3:1-13).

(Eph.3:1, 13) **Suffering** because of the this specific mystery doctrine

(Eph.3:2-5) **Spiritual** prophetic revelation (Eph.1:9-10)

(Eph.3:6-8) **Subrogate steward** of dispensation (Acts 13:46-47)

The Gentiles are one in the body of Christ because of the gospel of Grace Salvation

(Eph.3:1-9-13) **Sovereign** Plan of God

The Church is responsible to bring to light and make known (gnorizo) to the world and to the angelic orders that man was created to resolve the angelic conflict. (Isa.14; Ezek 28; Matt.25:41) God's Plan for His Son was to become perfect man and to atone for Sin, that separation caused by Adam's Original Sin (AOS) (Rom.5:12-21; 1 John 3:5, 8)

<p>This lesson will study four <u>aspects</u> of Mystery of Body of Christ, the Church.</p>
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1. The key point of this mystery doctrine is who God's grace would incorporate into the body of Christ, the Church, through the gospel of Jesus Christ (Eph.3:6; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

The stewards of the Church are a rag-tag group of people.

(Acts Ch.2)

Jews

(Acts Ch. 8)

Samaritans and Proselytes (Ethopian)

(Acts Ch.10-11)

Gentiles (Acts 15; Matt.28:18-20)

(Gal.3:26-29)

Jews and Greeks; slave and free; male and female – one in Christ
(Rom.9:24-26; 10:20; 11:11-15)

(Eph.3:6, 8, 10, 12)

Fellow heirs; fellow members; fellow partakers of the unfathomable riches of Christ, the manifold wisdom of God, and access through faith in Him.

2. Our lesson passage teaches that the mystery doctrine of the body of Christ was not known in other generations.

It teaches that it had been hidden IN God to be revealed with the incarnation of His Son (**Eph.3:1-5, 9; Col.1:26; Rom.16:25-26**).

- **Steward** change ((Eph.3:20) – (Acts 13:46-47)

- I believe that Gentile's dominance under the divine appointment of Paul was because of his message of grace (Acts 9:4-5; 15:1-19; Eph.2:8-9).
- **Spiritual revelation** (Eph.3:3)
 - "made known" (gnorizo) [to discover something unknown]
- **Spiritual insight** (Eph.3:4)
 - (ten sunesis) [putting things together that belong together like pieces of puzzle]
- **Sons of men** (Eph.3:5a)
 - "Which (hos) [mystery of Christ] (Eph.3:4) in other (heteros) [a different kind) generations (genea / l.pl.m) was not known to the Sons of men (Matt.1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38) [genealogy]."
- **Spirit** (Eph.3:5b)
 - "As **it** (The Mystery of Christ) has now (nun) been revealed (apokalupto / a.p.ind.3ps) to His holy apostles and prophets **by the Spirit.**"
 - **(Eph.3:9b)** "Which for ages has been **hidden in God**, who created all things."

3. The Homeric word, soma, was chosen by Paul to distinguish between the head and the body of the Church of Jesus Christ.

(1 Cor.12:12-27) "fellow members of the body" (**sussomos** / a.pl.n) [different members but one body] (Eph.3:6a)

The original use of **soma** referred to physical existence. Then later it came to distinguish the trunk from the head. This was Paul's use of this Homeric Greek word, **soma**.

(Eph.5:23) "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is **the head of the church**, He Himself being **the Savior of the body.**"

The Incarnate body of Christ came into human history by virgin conception and then by impeccability (Lk.1:31-35; 2 Cor.5:21).

This resulted in the perfect incarnate body of Jesus Christ that bore the sins of the world (1 Pet.2:24; Heb.10:5, 10; John 1:29).

4. Every person who believes that Jesus Christ died for his sins, was buried and raised on the third day becomes identified with the both the headship of Christ in heaven as well as the body of Christ on earth by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

At the moment of salvation, The Holy Spirit baptizes every Church Age Believer (CAB) into union with the headship of Christ in heaven (Gal.3:26-29; 2 Cor.5:17).

At the same time, the Holy Spirit baptizes every Church Age Believer (CAB) into union with the body of Christ on earth. (1 Cor.12:13, 18; Rom.12:5). "[So Great a Salvation.](#)"

Therefore, the church of Jesus Christ has members in both heaven and on earth (2 Cor.5:6-8; Phil.3:20-21; 1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:51-58).

(Eph.4:4a; 4:4-6)

"There is one body and one Spirit."