

*Sermon Questions for Life Groups*

**The Church – The Gospel Made Visible**  
***How Important is the Church? (Eph. 3:1-13)***

***Pastor John Mahaffey***

**Sunday, March 26, 2017**

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions  
or family or personal devotions*

1. Is there anything you would be willing to go to prison for?
2. Pastor John asked us to consider “what really unsettles or upsets Satan”. Even before delving into the passage, what are your comments? After reading Ephesians 3:1-13, do you have any different opinions?
3. What event in his life is Paul referring to in Eph 3:7-9? Consult Acts 9:1-19.
4. What clues do we have in this passage about Paul’s whereabouts and what he was experiencing when he wrote this letter?
5. Why was Paul in prison? Why do you think the Jews found it so offensive to have the Gentiles included in the promise?
6. Four times Paul mentions “the mystery” or “the mystery of Christ” (vs. 3, 4, 6, 9). What is this mystery and to whom was it revealed?
7. In review of Ephesians 2:7, discuss what are some of the unsearchable or incomparable riches of God’s grace through our Lord Jesus Christ?
8. Illustrate from scripture and daily life why God gives gifts of grace to individuals (note vs. 2, 7 & 9).

9. We know the mystery of the gospel in Christ has been fully revealed for nearly 2000 years – why do so many still misunderstand and obscure the gospel? What about the Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons and Seventh-Day groups?
  
10. The word Church is only used once in this passage (vs.10) but the whole passage is about the forming of this new body (vs.6) that God is creating. These verses are a continuation of chapter 2: 19-22. What do you think verse 10 means? What is meant by “the manifold wisdom of God”? How does the church make known this wisdom to creatures in the heavenly realms?
  
11. How does the church serve as a window of God's plan for the future (8 & 9)?
  
12. In light of what Paul says here about the church, how should this affect your attitude about going to church (worship) next Sunday?
  
13. Read verses 7 – 8; as we see Paul’s responsibility to preach Christ to the Gentiles, how might you in similar manner respond to Pastor John’s personal challenge on becoming servants of the church? In verse 8, why do you think Paul thinks of himself as “less than the least of all of the Lord’s people”?
  
14. Pastor John referenced writings from John Stott, and one of the quotes indicates “If the church is central to God’s purpose, as seen in both history and the gospel, it must surely also be central to our lives.” When looking back at recorded human history, how do you see that God’s church was indeed central to all that has occurred in antiquity and beyond? Can you give examples?
  
15. The second part of the John Stott quote from above says that the church needs to be central to our lives; how do you respond to the statistic that in today’s churches (in the Western world), only approximately 50% of church membership show up or show any involvement or commitment? What if anything, can be done to address the spiritual apathy that exists and enable people to become servants of the church as Pastor John mentions?
  
16. As we learn of the inclusionary aspect of the gospel from Ephesians 3, how might we view the current social issues of people in the LGBT community? How do we view or treat them? How would Jesus approach people in this community? Does the gospel include them?

