



“What Makes the Church Such a Big Deal?”

Ephesians 3:1 – 13

John Aldax – Sierra Community Church
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¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which 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. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³ I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Universal Church

Local Church

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

Ephesians 1:9 – 10 — ⁹ God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to **fulfill his own good plan**. ¹⁰ And **this is the plan**: At the right time he will bring **everything together** under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. (NLT)

WHAT MAKES THE CHURCH SUCH A BIG DEAL?

Ephesians 3:10 – “. . . now **through the church**” – the multifaceted wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.” (NIV)

WHAT WILL IT LOOK TO LIVE LIKE THIS IS TRUE?

Ephesians chapters 4 through 6

Community Group Questions

1. What is the most important thing you got from this message?
2. Did the message change the way you think about our church or not?
3. What are some barriers that tend to divide fellow church members?