

**The Mystery of  
One Body in Christ  
Ephesians 3:1-12**

God created all and He wants all to know Him  
Message was hidden it is now made known

**I. Commissioned with a Mystery - 3:1-2**

1. "Mystery" means a new revelation from God  
A truth unknown until God reveals it  
"mystery" is that Gentiles are fellowheirs with Jews
2. Truth so radical it led to Paul's imprisonment - 1  
Hated and persecuted for his ministry to Gentiles
3. Truth is a stewardship from God to Paul - 2  
"Dispensation" means oversight of household  
It is a stewardship with accountability before God  
God entrusted this new truth to the Apostle Paul  
His commission focuses on God's grace to  
Gentiles

**II. Communication of the Mystery - 3:3-5**

1. Truth came to Paul by Divine Revelation - 3  
It was not known in the Old Testament Scriptures  
Gentiles are in the O.T. but not as one with Jews  
(Paul wrote about it briefly in Eph. 1:9)
2. Credibility of message is it came from God - 4  
Paul wants them to understand this as they read
3. Truth was unknown until God revealed it - 5  
God chose not to reveal this truth in former ages  
God now revealed it through apostles & prophets  
Basic to the New Testament message of Grace  
The Holy Spirit has made it known now

**III. Content of the Mystery - 3:6**

1. That Gentiles should be fellowheirs  
God made covenant with Abraham & descendants  
Jesus Christ is seed" of Abraham - Galatians 3:16  
Gentiles "in Christ" are Abraham's seed - Gal. 3:29  
Gentiles now heirs with Jesus Christ - Rom. 8:17
2. That Gentiles are "of the same body"  
Jew and Gentile are now one in Body of Christ
3. That Gentiles are "partakers of His promise"  
The promises God made are now shared in Christ  
This is the "Good News" message for the Gentiles

**IV. Compulsion of the Mystery - 3:7-9**

1. This message must be proclaimed - 7  
"Good News" must not be withheld  
It must be proclaimed effectively by God's power
2. This is message God gave to Paul - 8  
God graciously chose him to proclaim this  
message  
God also empowered him to effectively proclaim it  
Unworthy as he was God gave him this message
3. All need to know unsearchable riches of Christ - 9  
God's message is for all, not just for Jews

**V. Consequences of the Mystery - 3:10-12**

1. Angels might see God's wisdom  
This new oneness in Christ is an object lesson  
Spirit beings can see fully God's manifold wisdom  
Only God could devise a plan like this  
Consider the words of Peter in 1 Peter 1:10-12
2. God's eternal purpose might be fulfilled – 11-12  
His creative plan is now realized in Jesus Christ  
God and man can dwell together in fellowship  
In Christ humans can have access now to God  
All this is a demonstration of God's wisdom &  
grace  
Consider Romans 11:26-36