

The Mystery of Unity

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 1:9-12.

B. Many voices say there is no purpose to the universe.

C. Believers were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world and selected to be part of God's family. This gives the believer a tremendous sense of identity.

D. The cross answers the problem of guilt.

II. The problem of history is answered in the revelation of the mystery of God's will.

A. The mystery of God's will.

1. A mystery is a secret that only God understands that men can only find out through the disclosure of God.

2. These cannot be found in any ordinary human enterprise. (I Corinthians 4)

3. God is working to unite all things in Him in history.

4. This is amazing because history appears to show the opposite.

5. God's goal is to bring everything under Jesus Christ.

6. Jesus has come to heal the bitter divisions between men.

7. God is working through every event in this world.

B. The way it has been manifest: in Christ.

1. The principle that this would take place was through the words of Jesus.

2. The words of Jesus boast radical principles that bring change to life.

C. The time it has been manifest: the fullness of time or seasons.

1. History moves through seasons.

2. God tears away the old and builds up the new at the same time.

D. Our part in the manifestation of the mystery.

1. We have been made the inheritance of Christ.

2. Jesus is the believer's inheritance.
3. Jesus draws upon us and this produces richness.
4. We must not complain about what life has handed us consequently because it is from the Father.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean that God is at work to unite all things in Him?

2. What does "in Christ" mean and how is this important to God's plan?

3. What is your place in God's plan? How does knowing this help motivate you to action?
