

Message Notes

“What’s the purpose of church anyway?”

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – “Tell me a story!”

Metaphors for church

A new series: What was Jesus thinking when he made the church his bride?

This week - What’s the point of church?
Ephesians 3:10-11

The Context of Ephesians 3:10

Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 2:1-14

Ephesians 5:22-33

Ephesians 6:10-13

Now, on to Ephesians 3:1-21

A short meditation on Ephesians 3:10-11

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

according to his eternal purpose

which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord

Application – *What’s the point of being part of the church for you?
What’s the benefits?*

Ephesians 3:1-21

¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – ²Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This 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. ⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all God’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His 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, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. ¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.