

Sermon: Christianity and The Church
Series: *Exploring Christianity*

Scripture: Ephesians 3
Date: July 11, 2021

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) "The Church is God's Plan A and there is no Plan B." Does this statement surprise you? Encourage you?

b) Paul makes a big statement in 3:10 - the church makes known the manifold wisdom of God? Do you think of your local church as displaying God's wisdom? Why or why not?

2) What does this passage teach us about us?

a) When you think of the church what comes to mind? Have you ever been hurt by a church? OR...what would be your critique of the local church?

b) What would you say is the purpose of the church? In what ways does this passage help you to understand God's purpose for his church? (see especially 3:6, 9-12)

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Talk through this idea together: If the church is characterized by its moral superiority then all of our flaws are failures. But if the church is characterized by God's grace then all of our flaws are an opportunity to display the glory of God's grace.

APPLICATION

a) Where might your commitment to spiritual growth through the local church need to be affirmed or re-affirmed?

b) Spend time praying for the church and for your small group using Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:

- Pray for strengthening through the indwelling Christ by the Spirit
- Pray that we would be rooted and grounded in love for one another.
- Pray that we might know Christ's love in all of its dimensions.
- Pray that we would experience the fullness of God in Christ.

FIGHTER VERSES: Ephesians 2:4-10.

PRAYER

- See application above