

Discussion Questions
“Prayer for Proclaiming the Mystery”
Ephesians 6:19-20

(What’s your favorite mystery book or movie? Why?)
(What most mystifies you regarding the ways of God?)

Paul speaks of the mystery of the gospel, what do you think it is?

Paul describes this mystery in a few places:

- Ephesians 1: God “*set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite (anakephalaioo - bring together under one head) all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*”
- Ephesians 3 “*This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*”
- Ephesians 4 “*There is one God and Father of all...*”

That Eph. 1 passage says, “*Set forth in Christ...*”

- How do you think what we see in Christ, in His death and resurrection, points towards the mystery of the gospel?

Read Eph. 3:7-9 As part of the Body of Christ, Paul seems compelled to share this mystery with others; we too have been given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18).

- How might God desire to preach the mystery through you?

Paul refers to Christ as “*the end of the ages*” and “*the revelation of the mystery hidden for ages.*”

By reflecting on the life of Christ, what can you learn about how to share this mystery?

We Christians often tend to think that life’s all about *how* you play the game—as if Jesus came to give us better strategies and better plays, for playing the game and winning the game. But it’s not about the game; it’s about the party after the game... Jesus wins the game, and Jesus won the game. And yet, He wasn’t even playing the same game. We were playing “Beat Your Neighbor”, and Jesus was playing “Save Your Neighbor,” and beat the old game of beating your neighbor. —P.H.

- Are there any areas in which you struggle with the temptation to beat your neighbor?
- Instead of competing with your neighbor, what could you do to share the mystery of the gospel with them?
- It seems clear from Scripture that life isn’t about beating your neighbor but rather it’s about the ministry of reconciliation. What might change in your life and interactions if you were to focus on that reality?

In Eph. 3:18 Paul asked the Ephesians to pray for him: “*that words may be given to me [Paul] in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel*”

- Regarding sharing the mystery of the gospel, do you ever feel like you could use some prayer support? If so, what would you most like prayer for in your life regarding the proclamation of the gospel.

In this sermon, Peter shared about his own struggle to accept or believe the grace and relentless love of God for all. He shared that in some ways he can see he’s dammed the flow of God’s grace into his own life.

- Do you think it’s harder to believe God’s grace and love for yourself or for others/the whole world? Why?
- Can you think of any areas in particular in which you struggle to believe God’s grace and relentless love for yourself? If so, why do you think you might struggle to believe it for yourself?
- Can you identify any ways you are damming the flow of God’s life, grace and love into your heart? If so, what are they?

Take a moment. Picture God as the source of all life; He is like a big heart that enables the entire Body to work & He is the source of all life. He desires to pump His life into you that He might nourish and sustain both you and others through your sharing of that life. Picture yourself as a vein. You are attached to Him. He has grafted you into Himself, the heart. Are you allowing His life to freely flow into you and then pour out into others? You might be resisting the flow of His life (in big or small ways). Reflect for a few moments: are you willing to have His life flow into you? Are you an open vessel or contracted? What scares you, what excites you about the thought of His life constantly coursing through your entire being? Try to imagine what it would be like to have his life flowing through you, uninhibited, like an endless river. In the quiet of your heart, share your thoughts about this with Him.