

Sunday, January 24, 2020 Sermon Title: *Solving the Mystery* Text: Ephesians 3:1-6

Pastor Perry Kallis

Big Idea: The mystery of supernatural unity among believers is basic to God's intention for us to declare and live the Good News of salvation in 2021.

1) Declaring God's "Mystery" offers believers these honors:

- Paul received the honor of <u>suffering</u>.
 (Ephesians 3:1/2 Corinthians 12:10)
- Paul received the honor of a job description. (Ephesians 3:2 / 2 Corinthians 5:20)
- Paul received the honor of <u>spiritual insight</u>. (Ephesians 3:3)
- Paul received the honor of **inclusion**. (Ephesians 3:5)

2) The "Mystery" is Defined: (Ephesians 3:6)

Phrases that describe my participation in this "unveiled mystery" of church unity:

- Fellow <u>heirs</u> / <u>members</u> of the <u>same body</u> / <u>partakers</u> of the <u>promise</u>
- The mystery of church unity is no <u>secret</u>. It is easily solved with <u>submission</u> to God and each other.

<u>Personal Application – Study Questions</u>:

Of the four "honors" described by Paul in declaring this mystery (suffering, job description, insight, and inclusion), which would you personally find most appealing and which is most challenging?

Are there any specific groups or kinds of fellow believers that you find most difficult to imagine "mysterious unity"? How could you improve in that unity?

If being unified for Christ is like passing food at a table, what kind of spiritual food have you passed to another believer lately that feeds them with encouragement?

Think of the group "barn-moving" illustration. What are some specific "handles" you could grasp to move us forward into the world with a message of hope?

