

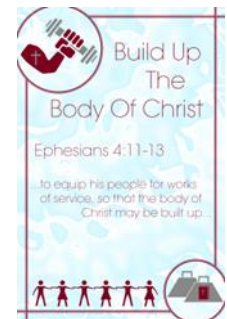
Safe in His Plan (Part II)

EPHESIANS 3:1-6

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:1-6

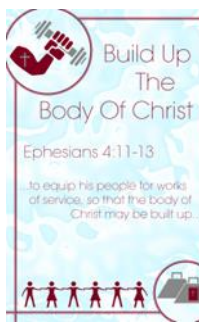
“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, 3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.



Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:1-6

“In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This 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.



Church Theme 2016



Build Up
The
Body Of Christ

Ephesians 4:11-13

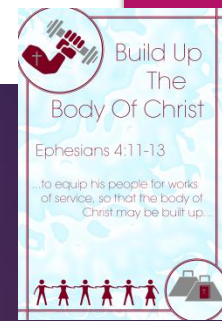
...to equip his people for works
of service, so that the body of
Christ may be built up...

The graphic features a light blue background with a white marbled pattern. In the top left, a circular inset shows two hands holding a cross. In the bottom right, another circular inset shows a building with a cross on its roof. At the bottom, a row of six stylized human figures holds hands, symbolizing unity and service.

Intro:



Church Theme and Goal for 2016:



Theme:

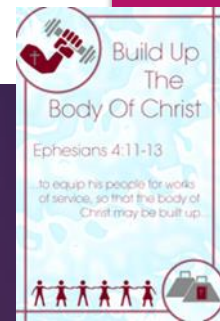
'Build Up the Body of Christ'

Goal:

'Equip the Believers to Walk with Christ and to Do the work of ministry in order to build up the Church for future generations'

Outline:

I. I, Paul the prisoner of Jesus Christ...For you Gentiles (v.1):



- ▶ Training in Prisons and thru trials & hardships.
- ▶ Paul spent a total of 6 years in prison during his ministry years.
- ▶ 'Safe in His Plan'.

What does it mean to be a 'prisoner'?



- ▶ Rights
- ▶ Relinquishment
- ▶ Representation

I'M NOT A PRISONER OF...

Circumstance

Conditions

Campaign

Cares

Chance

Consequences

Condemnation



II. My mission to the Gentiles (vv. 2-3):

- ▶ ‘Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was *given to me for you,*’ (v.2)
- ▶ Prisoner on behalf of the Gentiles.
- ▶ Paul was a ‘steward of God’s grace’.



III. 'God's Plan for the Gentiles' (vv. 4-6):

- ▶ This 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 (v.6).
- ▶ This **mystery**....through the gospel (we) Gentiles are:
- ▶ 'Fellow **heirs** of the same body'
- ▶ '**Partakers** of His promise in Christ'
- ▶ **Members** together of one body'

'Fellow heirs (co-heirs) of the same body':

- ▶ Christ gives us His glory (John 17:22)
- ▶ His riches (2 Corinthians 8:9)
- ▶ All things (Hebrews 1:2).



III. 'God's Plan for the Gentiles' (vv. 4-6):

- ▶ This 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 (v.6).

Partakers of His promise in Christ' (Power)

The Gentile believers can now share in all the gracious promises of God in the Old Testament (Isaiah 26:3), "that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ" (Gal. 3:14).

- ▶ **Members together of one body' (People)**

Members together of one body' (People):

- ▶ 1) Members of the Body of Christ are joined to Christ in salvation (Ephesians 4:15-16).
- ▶ 2) Members of the Body of Christ follow Christ as their Head (Ephesians 1:22-23).
- ▶ 3) Members of the Body of Christ are the physical representation of Christ in this world.
- ▶ 4) Members of the Body of Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9).
- ▶ 5) Members of the Body of Christ possess a diversity of gifts suited to particular functions (1 Corinthians 12:4-31). “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ” (verse 12).

Members together of one body' (People):

- ▶ 6) Members of the Body of Christ share a common bond with all other Christians.
- ▶ 7) Members of the Body of Christ are secure in their salvation (John 10:28-30).
- ▶ 8) Members of the Body of Christ partake of Christ's death and resurrection (Colossians 2:12).
- ▼
- ▶ 9) Members of the Body of Christ share Christ's inheritance (Romans 8:17).
- ▶ 10) Members of the Body of Christ receive the gift of Christ's righteousness (Romans 5:17).

Conclusion: Video Illustration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocWgSgMGxOc>



- ▶ The 'mystery' is understood through the attitude of the apostle Paul.
- ▶ Old creation....New creation.



Reflection Questions:



- 1. How are you experiencing your new creation in Christ?**
- 2. Does your life reflect that you are God's possession, you have access to his power & you are His people?**
- 3. Do you feel 'Safe in His Plan' for your life?**
- 4. As beneficiaries of His great plan for our lives, what is your responsibility?**