

August 30, 2020

Speaker: Eric Naus **Series:** Better Together, Reflections on the Nature of the Church

Sermon Title & Passage: “Visible Gospel” – Ephesians 3:10

Read Ephesians 2:11-3:13 aloud as a group to get a sense of the context. Then, for the remainder of the study, focus on Ephesians 3:10.

1. In Ephesians 3:10, the Apostle Paul says “manifold wisdom of God” is now revealed through the church. That word “manifold” means “diversified, multi-sided, or multi-colored.” It could be used to describe Joseph’s coat of many colors, or a floral arrangement with several types of flowers. Based on the context of Ephesians 2:11-3:13, the phrase “manifold wisdom of God” is a reference to God’s salvation plan that unites Jews and Gentiles together into one body in Christ. It’s God’s plan to save a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic people through Christ, and then unite them into one body in every local church! In light of this rich meaning, what would it look like, practically speaking, for the “manifold wisdom of God” to be clearly seen in our church?
2. How does this passage motivate us to intentionally pursue “diverse unity” in our church? What proactive steps can each of us take in our church to pursue both diversity and unity in Christ?
3. Notice that in Ephesians 3:10, this manifold wisdom of God in the church is to be seen by “rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.” This is a reference to angels and demons (see Ephesians 1:20-21, 2:2, 3:14-15, and esp. 6:11-12). Why is it important to realize that angels and demons look at the church, where they witness the manifold wisdom of God play out? Does that fact motivate you to treat church relationships with greater respect? How so?
4. Read Job chapter 1 aloud as a group, and review what happens over the course of the book. How does the story of Job parallel the story of the church in Ephesians 3:10 when it comes to a “heavenly audience” watching us as a showcase of God’s glory? What lessons can we learn by comparing these passages?
5. In the current cultural conversation about racial reconciliation, what solutions does the church uniquely offer in Christ and his gospel, as seen in Ephesians 3:10?