

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Ephesians 5:32-33

The Mystery of Christ and the Church

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The Great Mystery

Ephesians 5:32 (NASB)

This **mystery is great**; but I am speaking with reference to **Christ and the church**.

- Paul reveals that there is more to Genesis 2:24 than marriage—it ultimately applies to Christ and the church
- This “mystery” would be unknown had God not chosen to reveal it through His apostles

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Love and Respect

Ephesians 5:33 (LEB)

Only you also, each one of you, must thus **love** his own wife as himself, and the wife must **respect** her husband.

- Paul emphasizes what is essential for husbands and wives
- “Respect” is literally “fear” (*phobeo*)
- This respect is grounded in the husband’s position as ordained by God

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Implications and Applications

- We must not allow culturally driven desires to entice us into mythical religion
- “Mystery” as used by Paul in Ephesians is not myth, but clearly defined truth
- The now-revealed mystery provides the hope of glory for all believers

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Truth, Not Mystery Religion

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (LEB)

For there will be a time when they will not put up with sound teaching, but **in accordance with their own desires**, they will accumulate for themselves teachers, because **they have an insatiable curiosity**, and they will turn away from the hearing of the truth, but **will turn to myths**.

- Pagans love the romantically mysterious, so they have mythical religion

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This Mystery Is Revealed Truth

Ephesians 3:4-5 (LEB)

so that you may be able when you read to understand **my insight into the mystery of Christ** (which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men as **it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit**);

- This is not “mysterious” but meaningful and utterly profound

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The Hope of Glory

Colossians 1:26, 27 (LEB)

the mystery which has been hidden from the ages and from the generations, but **has now been revealed** to his saints, to whom God wanted to make known what is the glorious wealth of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**,

- The gospel is objective, revealed truth

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Christ Is the Mystery of God

Colossians 2:2, 3 (LEB)

so that their hearts may be encouraged, united in love and into all the wealth of the full assurance of insight into the knowledge of **the mystery of God, Christ**, in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

- If we do not know Christ, we do not have God's wisdom
- The alternative is vain philosophy (Col. 2:8)

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