

## Ephesians 3:1-4:3

Tuesday, December 23, 2008  
10:19 AM

Title	The Table at Advent
Text	Ephesians 3:1-4:3

### The Mystery of God Revealed to the Church (v.1-6)

- Through Paul's Stewardship
- Hidden Truth, now Revealed
- Joint Partakers in Christ  
*The church's unity is God's hidden but now revealed plan.*

### The Wisdom of God Displayed through the Church (v.7-13)

- Through God's Grace
- Unsearchable Riches, now Preached
- Cosmic Purpose Realized in Christ  
*The church's unity is to display the wisdom of God.*

### The Love of God Comprehended in the Church (v.14-19)

- Through Church's Prayers
- Incomprehensible Love, now Known
- Shared Privilege Experienced Together  
*The church's unity is founded, framed and filled by the love of God.*

### The Praise to God Lifted by the Church (v.20-21)

- Unimaginable Power
- Unsurpassed Glory
- Unending Worship  
*The church's unity glorifies God.*

### The Unity from God Maintained in the Church (4:1-3)

- In a Worthy Manner
- With Humble Patience
- To Maintain Unity  
*The church's unity is to be maintained in love.*

### **Reflect and Respond**

A wonderful set of truths that shape us:

- The wonder of God's plan
- The glory of God's purpose
- The fullness of God's presence
- The greatness of God's power

A practical call to unity that characterizes us:

- In a Christian lifestyle that promotes unity
- Through godly virtues that express unity
- With sincere eagerness that maintains unity

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,<sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.<sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,<sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.<sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,<sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,<sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.<sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,<sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.<sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,<sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,<sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,<sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,<sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**4** I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,<sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.