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**THE GREAT MYSTERY**  
Eph 5:22-33

|                          |   |                         |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <b>Christ<br/>Church</b> |  | <b>Husband<br/>Wife</b> |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|

**“This is a great mystery,  
but I speak concerning  
Christ and the church.”**

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**Discovering “The Great Mystery”**  
*Understanding Marriage*

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

**Not written in a vacuum!**  
Context



**Ephesians:**  
The World’s “Great Mystery”

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**Earning a M.Ed Degree**  
**in Marriage**

**I Peter 3:7**

“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with  
understanding...”

**Marriage Major:**  
Lifetime Achievement



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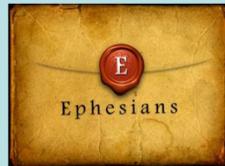
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**First: Earn a “Master’s” Degree**  
**in Christianity**

**Must Solve “The Mystery” of the Ages**

Textbook: Ephesians

**Christianity:**  
Lifetime Achievement



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**The Mystery in Ephesians**



**Eph. 1:1-14**  
 “Who Am I ?” A Christian is...

- 3 every spiritual blessing
- 4 chose us
- 5 predestined us to adoption as sons
- 6 accepted
- 7 redemption ... forgiveness
- 11 inheritance
- 13 sealed with the Holy Spirit

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**The Mystery The Great Ingathering**

Eph. 1:9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth -- in Him.




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**The Mystery: Clues To Solving**

**Eph. 1:15-23**

- 17 spirit of wisdom and revelation
- 18 understanding being enlightened...  
know what is the hope of His calling,  
 (know) what are the riches of the glory
- 19 (know) what is the exceeding greatness of His power




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**The Mystery:  
The Head and The Body**

Eph. 1:15-23 (cf. Gen. 2:18-25)

22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to *the church*, which is His *body*, **the fullness of Him** who fills all in all.

**The church completes Christ  
The woman completes man**

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**The Mystery: An Age Of...  
Great Mercy, Rich Grace, Loving Kindness**

Eph. 2:1-10

1-3 dead in trespasses and sins

4-6 alive together – raised

7-10 *in the ages to come* He might show: the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.



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**The Mystery:  
Two Become One**

Eph. 2:11-18

13 once were **far off** have been brought **near**

14 He is our peace, who has made **both one**

16 reconcile them **both** to God in **one body**

18 we **both** have access by **one** Spirit to the Father



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**The Mystery**  
*God's Beautiful Mosaic*

**Eph. 2:19-21**

19 no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God ... 21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, ***grows into a holy temple in the Lord***



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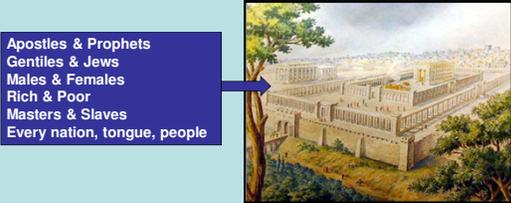
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**The Mystery**  
*God's Beautiful Temple*

**Eph. 2:19-21**

22 in whom you also are being ***built together for a dwelling place of God***



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**The Mystery:**  
*E. Pluribus Unum*

**United States**  
*America's Beautiful Mosaic*



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**The Mystery:  
REVEALED**



**Eph. 3:1-9**  
Dispensation of God's Grace

3 He made known to me the mystery  
 4 my knowledge in the mystery of Christ  
 5 in other ages was not made known ...  
 now been revealed

9 and to make all see what is **the fellowship of the mystery**,  
 which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden

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**The Mystery:  
Eternal Plan Unveiled**

**Eph. 3:10-11**



10 now the **manifold wisdom of God**  
*Polupoikilos: many-faceted, multi-colored*  
 might be made known by the church  
*Ekklesia: called out assembly of Jew & Gentile*  
 to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

11 according to the eternal purpose  
*Aionon Prothesis: "the purpose of the ages" (human history)*  
 which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord !!!

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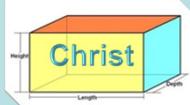
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**The Mystery is ...  
JESUS CHRIST !**

**Eph. 3:14-19**  
Comprehending  
Knowing  
Filled !

18 to comprehend: width + length + depth + height  
 19 to know the love of Christ  
 be filled with all the fullness of God




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**The Mystery:  
CHRIST'S GLORIOUS CHURCH !**

**Eph. 3:20-21 God's Glory = Us !**

20 Now to Him who is able to do  
exceedingly abundantly **Huper ek perissos** "superabundantly"  
above all that we ask or think,  
according to the power that works in us,

21 to Him be **glory** in the church  
by Christ Jesus  
to all generations,  
forever and ever. Amen.

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**How We Give God Glory  
In The Church**

**Eph. 4:1-16**

**One Body – Joined & Knit Together**

3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit ...

4 There is One Body  
Spirit  
Hope  
Lord  
Faith  
Baptism  
Father

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**One Body – Knit Together**

**Eph. 4:1-16**

13 till we all come to the **unity of the faith**



16 from whom the **whole body**,  
**joined and knit together** by what every joint supplies,  
according to the effective working by which  
**every part does its share**,  
causes **growth** of the body  
for the **edifying** of itself in love.

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### The 180 Difference: NOW I KNOW !

**Eph. 4:17-32**

Ignorance Kills!

Knowledge Builds!

THE OLD MAN:

futility of their mind ...  
understanding darkened ...  
ignorance that is in them ...  
blindness of their heart ...  
being past feeling ...



THE NEW MAN:

learned Christ  
taught by Christ  
renewed mind

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### The 180 Difference: Like Day & Night

**Eph. 5:1-14**

Darkness

vs

Light

THE OLD MAN:

you were once darkness  
unfruitful works of darkness  
done by them in secret  
Awake, you who sleep  
Arise from the dead



THE NEW MAN:

now you are light  
Walk as children of light  
made manifest by the light  
Christ will give you light

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### What A Christian Looks Like

**Eph. 5:15-21**

- walk circumspectly
- redeeming the time
- understand the will of the Lord
- filled with the Spirit
- singing and making melody in your hearts
- giving thanks always for all things
- submitting to one another in the fear of God



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**MARRIAGE**  
God's Mystery Illustrated

**Eph. 5:22-33**

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.  
25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her

**The Great Exhortation:**  
*Wife: The Thrill of Serving*  
*Husband: The Thrill of Giving*

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**MARRIAGE**  
Is Not An Experiment !

**Eph. 5:30-33**



For we are members of His body... His flesh and His bones.  
"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and *the two shall become one flesh.*"

This is a great mystery,  
but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

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**To Understand The**  
**Great Mystery of a Great Marriage**

Mystery

2 → 1

Process

Jews  
Gentiles

Master  
Slave

Male  
Female

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
there is neither slave nor free,  
there is neither male nor female;  
for you are **all one** in Christ Jesus.

Must Understand The Great  
Mystery Of Christ's Church

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**When You Say “I Do”**

**A Happy Marriage Made In Heaven**

can only be fully understood by

**A Happy Christian Here On Earth**

because we are the Great Example of the Great Mystery

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**God’s Challenge  
For Married Christians**

**We must show the world  
God’s Master Mosaic  
The Church  
Through our great marriages!**

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