



## House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on May 16, 2021

**Sermon:**

**Text: Ephesians 3:1-13**

### Gathering Guidelines

-Watch Natasha's intro video for this week.

### Take some time to worship

Play a worship song. Pray to Jesus. Be in His presence.

**By Our Love** by For King and Country

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEwb51LawAI>

**Fall Afresh [Lyric Video]** by Jeremy Riddle & Vineyard Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=617qQdMv5z8>

### Read

**Ephesians 3:1-13**

### Discussion Questions

**Question 1** – In verses 3:1-5, Paul expresses how he has the insight to the mystery of Christ that has been made known to him through God's Spirit. In verse 6, Paul states "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."

**REMEMBER** for thousands of years Jews and Gentiles have been hostile, warring, hateful, and destructive of each other. **How do you think Jews would have felt hearing this from Paul?** (If you like, for further discussion, recall any stories from the Bible regarding the relationship between Jews and Gentiles. Also, think about how the Jews thought the Messiah was going to come back.)

## **Question 2 – Read Ephesians 7-10.**

In these verses, Paul says he became a servant of God by the gift of grace given through God's power. This grace was given so he would preach of God's boundless riches and make plain the mystery of God's plan – through the Church, God's wisdom would be made known to rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

**How do you think this new unity looked like in the 1<sup>st</sup> century world?**

**How has this unity changed in our 21<sup>st</sup> century world?**

(Further discussion question if desired – imagine you were on the outside looking in on the Church/Family of God, what is being displayed? What is appealing? Anything that could be changed?)

**Question 3** – Josh mentioned how humility is needed to receive unity – Paul needed an attitude of humility to receive it (v. 7-8). Also in the unity Jesus brought, God did not make Gentiles into Jews or vice versa, *he made them all new creations.*

In your life, I am sure there have been people who have caused you trouble. **How have you prayed for them? Have you asked God to change them or asked God to change you?** This question overflows into the invitation for this week.

### **Invitation and Mission for this week**

**Paper is needed!**

During the House Church time, you are invited to spend 10 minutes (leaders you can decide whether to go longer or shorter) writing a letter to someone you have a hard time loving.

**YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SEND THIS LETTER.**

This is an opportunity to write out your thoughts regarding them but **also to invite Jesus to come make yourself and the person you are writing the letter to new. Be bold and write out blessings to them too!**

**(This can be a physical reminder for later in life for how God has changed your heart!)**

**Pray for each other**

Prayer requests are welcomed!

The group can pray from the content of your discussion and declare God's truth/blessing over the group.