

Connected  
Connected by Eternal Purpose  
Ephesians 3:1-13

I. Message – “Connected by Eternal Purpose”

**a. That the gospel might be known by all – v.1-9**

i. Spreading the gospel was Paul’s life-PURPOSE

1. Remember we Gentiles were alienated from God’s people
2. AND, worse yet, we were alienated from God Himself!
3. Paul spends much of chapter 2 explaining this wonder
4. There was NO WAY for Gentiles to be reconciled to God before Christ
  - a. How that could possibly happen remained a mystery
  - b. God of course understood it, but humans were clueless
  - c. A mystery that God revealed to Paul – v.3

ii. Spreading the gospel was Paul’s greatest PRIVILEGE

1. Paul was made a minister by God’s grace
  - a. The word minister is diakonos which means servant, busboy, or waiter
  - b. 1 Corinthians 3:5**
2. Paul saw this opportunity as a gift from God
  - a. “According to the gift of the grace of God” – v.7
    - i. What a privilege to share Jesus!
    - ii. What a privilege to “row the boat!”
    - iii. What a privilege to “serve the meal!”
    - iv. What a privilege to build the church with HIM!

**b. That God might be glorified by all – v.10-11**

- i. Specifically here: Receive more glory for His wisdom
- ii. Paul reveled in the fact that the Gospel proved God’s wisdom to heaven

**1. Romans 11:33-36**

- a. What is the right response to the gospel?
- b. Not arguing about who is in and who is not in
- c. Not debating endlessly Calvinism v. Arminianism
- d. But rather...Glorifying God!

- e. This is the eternal purpose! – **Philippians 2:10-11**
- 2. No creature is exempt
- 3. Part of the eternal purpose that holds THIS church together: Every single creature glorifying God by worshipping Jesus

**c. That all believers might have confident faith -v.12-13**

- i. Not just confidence that Jesus can save
- ii. But confidence when the rubber meets the road
- iii. Confident faith through trials
- iv. Notice Paul's confidence:
  - 1. My faith in Christ makes me bold
  - 2. Now let my faith in Christ make YOU bold

**II. Conclusions**

- a. Will you join Paul (and the rest of us at FBCW) in the privilege of growing the church?
- a. Will you worship God (with the rest of us) for the wisdom of the gospel?
- b. Will you faint in hard times or have bold confidence in your faith or will you encourage others to be confident in Christ in your trials and in theirs?