



EPHESIANS

DAY 3

Ephesians 3

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EQUALLY UNQUALIFIED

Ephesians 3:6 (NLT)

“And this is God’s plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 3:6 (MSG)

“The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives...stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus.”

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The primary message of Ephesians 3 is based on the idea of qualification, and Paul wants to ensure that the church knows two fundamental truths: nobody is qualified because of sin, and everyone is qualified through the redemptive work of Jesus. Paul uses his own experience as an example of this, stating in vs. 8: “Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given to me” (NIV). Even the fact that Paul, a very well-educated Jewish man, directed this message of equality to a group of Gentiles was culturally astounding. Ultimately, Paul’s desire is that each member of the church should not try to disqualify each other or themselves, instead trusting in the tremendous work that God had done in each and every one of them.

We do this, don’t we? We hear others’ circumstances, their mistakes (both past and present), their differences in perspectives or minor beliefs. We are offended, we get dismissive, we judge. Or we concoct reasons why we can’t serve, or shouldn’t, or won’t be welcome. We feel offended, we feel dismissed, we feel judged. If we’re going to be a church of unique individuals made on purpose for a purpose, fit together in unity and harmony to house the presence of God, we must accept these two fundamental truths: nobody is qualified and everyone is qualified. We must trust in the One who qualifies us, believe the best of each other, and serve side-by-side.

We may not be Jews and Gentiles per se, but there is an invisible hierarchy that permeates our church culture, and the only way to rid ourselves of it is to shine a light on it and commit to uprooting it. How do we do that? We ask the Holy Spirit to help us in three ways: first, show us how we have participated in this hierarchy; two, challenge us every time we slip back into this mindset; and three, remind us of the incredible, life-changing, qualifying work that we experienced through the blood of Jesus.

What is God speaking to me about in today’s reading?

MY PRAYER FOR TODAY:

