

Series: Learning to Walk - Ephesians 3:1-13

Title: "The Church in God's Cosmic Plan" 4-2-23 Erik Disch

God has a cosmic plan, a master plan of redemption. The Bible speaks of a divine plan for the whole creation, and the Church has a central role in that plan.

1. God's Cosmic Plan

God's cosmic plan is stated most concisely in the first three chapters of Ephesians. Paul speaks of "the will of God" (1:1), "his pleasure and will" (1:5), "the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ" (1:9).

2. God's plan as a cosmic strategy

Paul here sees God's plan as a *cosmic strategy* having to do with all creation. God's plan is- "to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ." (NIV)/"to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" (1:10, RSV)

3. The Church in God's Cosmic Plan

In Ephesians 3:10, Paul says, is that "through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms."

4. What then is the mystery of God's plan?

In Christ, God acts so powerfully that He can overcome hatreds and heal hostilities. The mystery is not merely that the gospel is preached to Gentiles; it is that through this preaching, Gentile believers are now "heirs together" and "members of one body."

Conclusion-

The Church is to be God's display of Christ's reconciling love. God reconciles all alienated persons and peoples to Himself through the blood of the cross. It started with the reconciliation of Jew and Gentile and extends to free and slave, man and woman, black and white, rich and poor (Col 3:10-11; Gal 3:28).

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