

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 3:8-13

PAT NEMMERS

September 11, 2022

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Think back over the summer months that have just passed. What are some of your favorite moments from the summer? Are there any traditions, rhythms, or habits that you had during the summer that you want to continue into the fall season?
- In what ways are you more or less like Jesus than you were when the summer began?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat reminded us of three ways that God's manifold wisdom is revealed to our world.**

Introduction:

- How would you describe "The Church" to someone at work, at school, or at a tailgate party?
- How would you describe Saylorville Church to that same person?
- Pastor Pat said, "Next to the cross, the greatest thing that God has ever done is create the church." How might you respond to that statement?

God's manifold wisdom is revealed to our world:

1. Through the *trust* of Jesus' people (John 16:12; Job 23:8-10)

- What are some areas of your life in which you find it easy to trust God? Are there areas that are hard for you to let go of and give to the Lord? Why do you think those specific areas are hard?
- Talk about some examples from your life where you trusted God and He brought results that you never could have imagined.
- How might your personal trust in God's wisdom impact lost people around you?

2. Through the *humility* of Jesus' people (Ephesians 3:8)

- Follow the Apostle Paul's descending view of himself compare to Jesus: 1 Corinthians 15:9; Ephesians 3:8; 1 Timothy 1:15. What surprises you about this progression?
- If you are a Jesus follower, how is your view of yourself changing as you love Christ more and more?
- How might someone with true humility impact your family, your neighborhood, or your community?

3. Through the *boldness* of Jesus' people (Ephesians 3:10)

- In Acts 4:8-13, the early believers were recognized as "companions of Jesus." What do you think you are known for?
- What might need to change in your life for people to recognize you as a "friend of Jesus?" How can you take one or two steps this week to grow in this area?

Next to the cross, the greatest thing that God has ever done is create the church.

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Take a few minutes to thank God for The Church and for your church. Commit together to showing God's wisdom to the world around you.

