

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for February 20, 2022

Sermon Notes

God's Ultimate Plan and Purpose for Westwood Ephesians 3:1-13

What is God's plan for Westwood? The answer is found in the second and third chapter of Ephesians. It begins with the gospel, the good news that God takes us from "dead in our trespasses and sins" to being "made alive together with Christ". This supernatural transformation is not something deserved or accomplished by us. It flows from God's great love and mercy; it is a gift of grace (Eph 2:8-9).

But God's plan includes more than our individual salvation. His plan includes taking all those who were spiritually dead - alienated from God and each other, and supernaturally unifying them through the bond of Christ. In Christ, those who were formally separated are brought together in a new humanity - *one new man* (Eph 2:15). *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God* (Eph 2:19).

This supernatural community, which is so contrary to our culture and our world (and which is humanly impossible), causes the seen and unseen world to sit up and take notice. This kind of love and unity makes visible the majesty and glory of the invisible God. "This is the ultimate purpose statement for community in the Ephesian church. This is the ultimate purpose statement for community in churches today."¹ This is God's ultimate plan and purpose for Westwood.

THE MAJESTY of God's wisdom displayed in His plan (3:10-11)

THE MYSTERY of God's Gospel revealed in His plan (3:3-6, 9)

THE MAN that God uses to announce His plan (3:1-2, 7-8)

Applications:

¹The Compelling Community by Dever & Dunlop, p. 25-26

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| I never knew... | I was reminded... | A question I still have... |
| I was challenged... | I was convicted... | A truth I could share... |
| I was encouraged to... | | I need to dig deeper into... |

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

| | |
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| Is there a command to obey? How am I compelled to exalt God? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a principle to follow? Is there an example to follow? | Am I convicted to confess any sin? Is there a sin to avoid? How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel? How can I pray for someone else? What am I compelled to love or desire? |
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Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

What sort of ideas about the church are we prone to adopt from our culture that hinder our biblical understanding? How does that affect the mission and purpose of church?

How should this vision of the church as the manifold wisdom of God shape our understanding of church membership, as well as our function and practice as members? How should that motivate us *as* the church?

Can you say that the relationships you are cultivating within the Body reflect the manifold wisdom of God? What relationships are you building that can only be attributed to the work of gospel and the Spirit's empowerment to bring unity and joy?

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

Westwood Staff

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