

## **Embracing the Mystery**

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Over the past two Sundays, we have reflected on “Embracing the Great Commission” and “Embracing the Wind of Change.” Today, we gather to delve into another captivating topic: “Embracing the Mystery.” Life is filled with wonders and questions that often defy our understanding. As we navigate the complexities of our existence, we encounter mysteries that invite us to explore, reflect, and grow in our faith.

Before we dive into Scripture, let us first reflect on the nature of mystery itself. A mystery is something unknown, beyond human comprehension, or difficult to fully understand. It encompasses concepts, phenomena, or truths that elude simple explanations. Mysteries evoke awe, curiosity, and wonder, inviting us to explore their depths.

Mysteries can cover a wide range of subjects in different contexts. They may involve spiritual or religious truths that transcend human understanding, such as the nature of God or the depths of spiritual experience. Mysteries can also encompass natural phenomena, scientific enigmas, or philosophical questions that challenge our knowledge and understanding of the world. It’s important to acknowledge that we cannot fully understand all the mysteries we encounter.

Christian theology grapples with many profound theological issues that remain mysterious. The concept of mystery holds deep significance, referring to truths revealed by God that exceed our comprehension. The mystery in theology is not a puzzle to be solved through human intellect alone; rather, it invites us to encounter the transcendent reality of God. While we may not fully grasp all aspects of God’s nature and plans, they are accessible to us through the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Embracing the Great Commission helps us hold onto our Savior’s promise of the perpetual companionship of the Lord. Embracing the wind of change helps us see how that promise has been fulfilled with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Now, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God’s wisdom, helps us understand the essence of Divine mysteries even though we cannot comprehend them completely. As the people of God, bestowed with the power and knowledge of the Holy Spirit, we can dare to embrace the mystery.

As we explore these mysteries, we acknowledge their profound nature and our limited understanding. It's important to note that the term "mystery" does not imply that something is unknowable or beyond exploration. Rather, it acknowledges the depth and complexity of certain aspects of life and invites us to embrace the journey of seeking understanding, wisdom, and revelation. Embracing a mystery involves acknowledging our limitations, maintaining a posture of curiosity and openness, and engaging in a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and growth.

Let us turn our attention to Psalm 8, a beautiful and poetic passage that reflects on the mystery of creation and the greatness of God. The psalmist marvels at the vastness of the cosmos, acknowledging their own insignificance in comparison. Yet, they are amazed that God would care for humanity and entrust them with stewardship. This contemplation leads the psalmist to praise and worship God, recognizing Divine power, wisdom, and love.

In our pursuit of understanding, we can also draw insights from scientific discoveries. For instance, when we explore the field of astronomical science, we realize that our knowledge and understanding of the vast universe are limited. Scientists suggest that the visible matter we can see in the universe accounts for only about 5% of its total composition.

This means that even if we were to acquire complete knowledge of objects like the Sun, the Moon, planets, stars, black holes, and galaxies—everything that can be observed with telescopes—we would still only have knowledge of 5% of the universe. Clearly, we have a long way to go in terms of exploration. The remaining portion consists of dark matter and dark energy, which we know little about. These unknown aspects of the universe remind us of the mysteries that exist within creation and our limitations in comprehending them fully.

Another central mystery in Christian theology is the Trinity, pointing to one God who exists as three distinct persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. While the term "Trinity" is not explicitly mentioned in the Bible, it finds support in various passages, including 2 Corinthians 13:11-13.

Paul urges the Christians to "agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you" (v. 11b). Here, he encourages them to live in harmony and unity, promoting restoration and peace among them. This points to the essential nature of love and peace, which are attributes of God and reflect God's character.

Verse 13 specifically mentions the three persons of the Trinity. Here, we see distinct references to Jesus Christ (the Son), God (the Father), and the Holy Spirit. This triadic formula highlights the equality and unity of the three persons within the Godhead.

There have been numerous theological attempts to explain Christian mysteries, such as Creation, the Trinity, Salvation, etc. However, none of these explanations can fully reveal the profound meaning and the secret of God's ways. Nevertheless, it is vital to endeavor to understand the meanings of these Christian mysteries, even though they may be incomplete. Such efforts deepen faith, nurture spiritual growth, and foster a closer relationship with God.

To embrace the mystery, we can follow three steps: Encounter, Study, and Embrace the Journey. We engage our senses and experience the mystery through prayer, nature, or stillness. By opening ourselves to the presence of the mystery, we allow its awe and wonder to touch our hearts and minds.

We diligently study and seek understanding through sacred texts, reflection, and learning from different sources. Through deepening our knowledge and exploring the wisdom of others, we gain insights that shed light on the mysteries we encounter.

We embrace the ongoing journey, accepting the limits of our understanding and remaining open to growth. We acknowledge that complete comprehension may elude us, but we persist in our quest for knowledge and wisdom, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

By following these steps, we develop a deeper relationship with the mystery, allowing it to shape our lives. Engaging with mysteries cultivates awe and reverence, expanding our capacity for insight and transformation. This pursuit promotes intellectual and theological development, equipping us to articulate and share our faith. It also fosters unity within the community of believers, encouraging dialogue and mutual respect. While full comprehension may elude us, the journey of understanding enriches our lives and draws us closer to the profound truths that shape our faith.

One of the most common mysteries in our lives is related to our family members. Within the intricate tapestry of family dynamics, there are depths and complexities that often elude complete understanding. Our interactions with parents, siblings, and other relatives are marked by a unique blend of love, joy, conflict, and growth. Family relationships encompass a multitude of emotions, shared experiences, and the formation of our identity.

Loving our families goes beyond their imperfections. We embrace them with love and constant contact, seeking to understand and discover new aspects of ourselves and others within the family unit. Navigating the mysteries of unconditional love, forgiveness, and acceptance, we grow as individuals and foster deeper connections within our families.

Likewise, the worship service provides a profound opportunity for embracing the mystery. As believers gather in worship, we enter into a sacred space where the divine and the human meet. Through music, prayers, scripture readings, sermons, and Holy Communion, the worship service invites us to encounter the mystery of God's presence and engage with the depths of faith. It creates an environment for communal participation and reflection, allowing worshippers to study and contemplate the mysteries of God's love, grace, and redemption. In this shared experience, believers are encouraged to embrace the mystery, allowing it to transform our hearts, minds, and spirits, deepening our connection with the divine.

In conclusion, let us take the necessary steps to embrace the mystery. As we encountered the wonders of creation, explored the depths of the Trinity, and pondered the profound questions of our faith, we have been called to a lifelong journey. To embrace the mystery, we must first open ourselves to its presence, engaging our senses and experiencing its awe and wonder. Next, we must diligently study, seeking understanding through sacred texts, reflection, and learning. Finally, we must embrace the ongoing journey, accepting the limits of our understanding and remaining open to growth. By following these steps, we deepen our relationship with the mystery, allowing it to shape our lives, cultivate awe and reverence, and draw us closer to the profound truths that shape our faith. Let us embark on this journey of embracing the mystery with courage and humility.