

Teachings of the Mystery

1 Timothy 3:16

Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

1. *Jesus is the Christ – God’s Messiah – God as man/with man*

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 If anyone is in Christ, there is new creation, the old has passed away and the new has come. Now all of this is of God, who reconciled us to his self through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not considering their trespasses against them, and he has entrusted us with the word of reconciliation.

2. *As such, Jesus is the last Adam – the first of the harvest of a new creation*

1 Corinthians 15:45 Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

3. *Jesus creates and defines the “Christian” – they are simply and wholly those united to, and living through, him.*

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

4. *“The church” is neither a building nor an organization (not any structure made by humans), but rather the gathering (assembly) of those called into Christ and united to him.*

Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made complete. *Simply:*

The Christian vocation is life in and through Christ / the new covenant new creation

5. *This person is a participant in God – an extension of the incarnation in God's Spirit*

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

6. *Jesus Christ and his new covenant partner live in complete mutual coordination – he as creator, reconciler, and sanctifier – as Lord – the convert as recipient and instrument of grace and the Spirit. The Christian lives in love submission as a surrendered life.*

Romans 6:4-5 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

7. *We live through and to Christ. We never become Christ. We are being renewed into his likeness; we are fully identified with him*

Romans 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren.

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Philippians 3:8-10 . . . that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith; that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death . . .

8. *The mystery hidden for ages is that: Christ is God himself who now through his Spirit unties men and women to himself – this is the Israel of God. The call is heard and we repent by turning in submission and surrender. We present our lives in*

*this flesh to him. Jesus is life. Jesus is holiness. Jesus is the
Sacrament. Jesus is the truth. Jesus id Lord!*

Acts 2:36 (Peter) "Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made this Jesus both Lord and Christ, the One whom you crucified." 1 Corinthians 1:30 God himself is the source of our life in Christ Jesus, whom God made to be our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption;