



the Source

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...

As a young boy I can remember watching Dad chop the heads off chickens as he prepared them for the stew pot. As he would behead one and set it down to grab another, the beheaded one would walk around the yard. This phenomenon spawned the saying, "He was running around like a chicken with its head cut off." Apparently there are some nerves still active after the decapitation.

We place a lot of importance on the care of our heads. A lot of scientific research goes into the construction of helmets to protect athletes, bicyclists, motorcyclists, construction workers, and others engaged in risky vocations or sports.

A body can function without many of its parts, but when severed from its head, there is nothing left but a few nervous twitches. Have you ever been a part of a committee or an organization where nobody seems to be in charge? The head provides direction and keeps things on course.

Setting the gruesome chicken tale aside for a moment, I am struck by the near poetic quality of this text. It embraces such grand themes as the divine image, the creator, the power that holds all things together, or the great reconciler of man to God. If you read it and believe it, you have but to proclaim, "Thou [Christ] art worthy of worship."

Buried in the text is this little nugget, "...he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church."

In a spiritual sense, we must stay focused on the importance of our head also. In Christ we find our center, our reason for being: "...in him all things hold together." The church stays connected to its head through the communion of the saints, prayer, Bible study, the sacraments, and all other means of grace.

However, a church that has lost connection with Christ simply runs around like a chicken with its head cut off.

— Joe Grove, First Church member

A Family Affair

The past two Sundays, in the Family Affair, we have learned about the church as the Body of Christ: many members, all with their own special jobs. Like our physical bodies, not every member can be the hand or the eye, yet each has its own value. We also learned about different members of a family, or church, working together on a common goal, so that the final goal can be accomplished more easily.

Read Colossians 1:15-23 together. The apostle Paul reminds one of the earliest churches that Jesus Christ is the head of the church. Even though a church is made up of many people, all with their own special talents, it is so important that each member stay focused on Christ, our leader. As a family, make a plan for this week to keep Christ at the center of your hearts and lives. For example, every member could share a God sighting from their day at dinner. Another idea would be for someone different to lead the prayer each night...even the youngest can contribute "Amen."

Dear God, thank you for loving us. Be with each of us this week and help us to support each other as we try to stay focused on you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

— Children's Ministry Team

Monday: Colossians 1:15

"He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation."

- What can you conclude about the invisible God from what you know about Christ?
- What are your primary sources for information about Christ?

Tuesday: Colossians 1:16

"For by him all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."

We have just gone through a bruising political season.

- What does this passage add to your political understanding?
- What are some of the visible things about creation that inspire you? How about the invisible things?

Wednesday: Colossians 1:18

"And he is the head of the body, the church..."

- Do you think of the church as the "body of Christ?" If you do, how do you fit into this body?
- What do you see as your function?
- What part of your physical body is a metaphor for how you function in the church?

Thursday: Colossians 1:19,20

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

- What does the word "reconcile" tell us about creation and more specifically, people?
- Have you ever felt a need to be reconciled to God?
- How do you satisfy that need? For a more complete understanding, read and reflect on verses 21-23.

Friday: Colossians 1:15-23

- What in this powerful passage speaks to you?
- What in it inspires you the most?
- What in this passage gives you hope?