

The Head of the Home
Christ is the Head of the Church
CWG Series: part 13
April 4-5
Ephesians 1:22-23

Introduction

- **2020 The Year of Connecting** – we need a ton of that right now, right?
 - **Highlights weekly** - Each week we are highlighting through the book of Ephesians why connection with God and people is so important.
 - **Half & Half** - ½ the book is about connecting with God and ½ is practically connecting with each other.
- **When we connect with God – we connect with His people, His family.**
 - **No isolation** - You cannot be a healthy Christian and isolated.
 - **Communal, shared group** - Christianity is communal by definition. It is a shared faith. It is a group as well as a belief-system.
 - **Relational at core** - Christianity is relational at it's core. It is not merely intellectual. It's not simply another charitable organization. It's relationships with God and other people.
 - **Not good alone** - In the beginning God said that it's not good for man to be alone (Adam), and so another person was made (Eve). We don't make sense alone.
 - **Therefore,...**

Connection Means Purposeful COMMUNITY

- **Recap – so far in Ephesians**
 - **Paul started by talking about how blessed we are as Children of God**
 - We are chosen by Him personally.
 - He had us in mind before the world began.
 - He put a plan into motion to make sure that we were going to be adopted by Him.
 - Made brand new
 - We are redeemed, rescued from our sins.
 - Forgiven for what we've done wrong.
 - We've been given insight into what God's up to through His Bible
 - We've been promised a glorious future.
 - We've been given the Holy Spirit to walk with us every day empowering us and guiding us.
 - **Then in verses 15-21 is one long, passionate sentence about what Paul is praying that the Ephesians receive from God:**
 - That we would know God more and more
 - That our hope would grow the more we know Him.
 - That we know how overly blessed we really are as Children of God
 - That we would fathom the intense power He uses to bless His kids

- The same incredible power that raised Christ from the dead and made Him the ruling King of All – above every authority in existence (Pastor Brian taught us last week).
- **Where we are at Now (Authority of Christ)** - It's while he is describing the Authority of Christ and the glory that the Father raised Him up to, that we find our passage to study today, verses 22-23...**ESV**
 - *Ephesians 1:22-23 – “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”*
 - **Let's pray for the Word**

Lesson

- **In these 2 verses Paul makes 4 big statements for us to chew on:**
 1. God put all things under Jesus' feet
 2. God gave Christ to the Church
 3. The Church is the Body of Christ
 4. The Church is the fullness of God who fills all in all – whatever that means.
 - **We'll take them one by one and learn why it's important and what it means for us today...**
- **The King Supreme**
 - **Jesus Christ is King of Everything**
 - *Ephesians 1:22a – “And he put all things under his feet...”*
 - **It's a quote from Psalms 8:6** – Just as the first Adam had dominion over the Earth, even more so does the 2nd Adam, Jesus, have dominion over the entire universe.
 - **Jesus is the Supreme King of the Universe** – I don't want to belabor this issues because Pastor Brian already covered most of that last week.
 - **His Way Every Time** - I will only highlight that if He's in charge, anything He decides, anything He determines, will happen. No one nor nothing can stop the plans of God.
 - **Subjection terms** – forcibly. But uses a different word for His people...
- **Our own...Personal...Jesus**
 - **The Church has special connection to Jesus Christ**
 - *Ephesians 1:22b – “and gave him as head over all things to the church,...”*
 - **He is the Head of Us**
 - **We've Got a Jesus! He's specially ours.** He interacts with us personally in ways that He doesn't with the rest of the world. He protects differently, He guides differently, He loves differently, He blesses differently.
 - **The Call to be in the Family of God is WIDE** – come join us!
 - **Jesus is the HEAD of the Church** – just like He is the head over all things, so too is He the head of the Church (Eph 5:23; Col 1:18). In 2 ways.
 - **Head as SOURCE** – All that is life comes from God. Christ is all.

- **Head as AUTHORITY** – He calls the shots. Obedience is our call.
- **God Body**
 - **The Church is the Body of Christ**
 - **Ephesians 1:23a** – “...which is his body,...”
 - **The Church is the Body of Christ** – it’s weird to hear, but it’s not rocket science. We do for Him, what He wants to do.
 - **Partakers of the Divine Nature** – We share reality and life.
 - **1 Body, Many Different Equally Valuable Parts** – 1 Cor 12:12-31
 - 1 Cor 12:12-31 – *“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ...¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.”*
 - **Body is Equal, only the Head is Lead**
 - **So far no head transplants** – every other part is interchangeable in a human being.
 - **As the Senior Pastor I have authority here, but I’m not better than anyone else.** I’m not the true head of the church, Jesus is. He gets the ultimate surrender of will from us and the all the praise.

- **Filled to the Full**
 - **God is filling everything including the Church**
 - **Ephesians 1:23b – “...the fullness of him who fills all in all.”**
 - **Better translation**, ‘the fullness of that which is being constantly and totally filled.’
 - **What it means**: God totally fills Christ and Christ pours fully into the Church so that the Church, we would have all we need and filled to the fullest.

Conclusion

- **The Purpose of Bridgeway’s Wknd Service Structure** – take a break from the normal pace of life to get together, refocus, worship, get inspired, and get trained to go back out there and BE THE CHURCH wherever we live.
 - A Pandemic doesn’t stop the church.
 - Quarantine doesn’t stop the Holy Spirit.
 - We are more the Church than we’ve ever been.
- **Christ has given us all we need and more.** Let’s go through all of our healthy channels of communication and tell everyone how much Christ loves them, that we are praying for them, that God is at work.
 - **Let’s go spread some hope!**
- **I love you all.** See you next week! It’s Easter, you aren’t going to want to miss this!