

# MYSTERY

DISCOVERING WHO GOD HAS CALLED US TO BE

## What Is the Church?

### SUMMARY:

In Colossians 1:18, the Apostle Paul calls Jesus the head of the body, the Church. Two things to note: 1) A headless body is a lifeless body. 2) The Greek word for church is *ekklēsia*, which literally means “called out from/to” and was a term used to describe assemblies of people. When people are called out from one thing to another thing, it is always a move from some smaller thing to something bigger.

When reading the Bible, it’s always important to read in context. That means that we must look at whole Scripture passages, and not simply a few verses here and there. We must also see how these Scripture passages fit into the book as a whole and into the grand narrative of Scripture. Another important aspect of context is understanding the cultural moment in which the words were written and the audience to whom the words were written. Who is the author? Who is the audience? When was this written? Where was this written? What was happening at that time? All these context clues help us understand the Bible.

For this week’s discussion, we are studying the Church. Take time to read **Colossians 1:13-20** several times before going through the questions below.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#### Upward

The Apostle Paul calls Jesus the head of the body, the Church. How does a head function in a relation to a body? How does Jesus function as the head of the Church?

What is one thing this passage tells us about what Jesus has done that makes you want to worship Him?

#### Inward

Look at the passage and note when the word “we” or “us” is used. What does this tell you about how Jesus sees you?

To be the *ekklēsia* necessarily means joining with others into something bigger. But this passage doesn’t tell us to *do* anything. What is our role as part of the Church?

#### Outward

Read verses 15-17. Every single person you know was created by, through, and for Jesus. How might this reality shape your interactions with others this week?