



Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

Open your Bible to Ephesians 1:15-23. Let's see what we can learn about the church and its head...

- According to v. 15, what **two** things had Paul heard about the folks in Ephesus?
Toward Jesus they had _____, and toward other believers ("all the saints") they had _____.

According to 1 John 4:20 and 5:1, what is the **necessary connection** between those two things?

- Paul asked God to give the believers in Ephesus "a spirit of **wisdom** and of **revelation** in the **knowledge** of Christ" (v. 17). Those all sound like "brain things"—but then in v. 18 he notes that they come via "the enlightening of the **eyes of their hearts**". What do you think about that?

This "spiritual heart-knowledge" comes via **revelation** from God. Look up the word "revelation" at webstersdictionary1828.com. According to Matthew 11:25–27, to whom does God **reveal** himself? To whom does God **hide** knowledge of himself? (Hint: See the context: Matthew 11:20–24).

We all reveal or withhold info based upon the trustworthiness of our listener (think: "best friend" vs. "telemarketer"!)

What criteria does **God** use to determine to whom **he'll** reveal and withhold info?

- According to v. 18-19, "to us who believe" God reveals "the _____ of His calling, the riches of the glory of His _____ in the saints, the surpassing greatness of His _____."

Our "calling" is to salvation. But according to Titus 1:1-2, **how certain** is biblical hope?

The inheritance God has for us is called "gloriously rich". How else is it described in 1 Peter 1:3–5?

According to v. 19b-20a, **how "surpassingly great"** is the power God gives us? What else did it do?

- Jesus is now seated "in the heavenlies, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come." (v. 20b-21). Above **how many** "rulers, authorities, powers, dominions, and names" is Christ now? **How far** above them is he? **Who benefits from** Christ's supremacy over every created thing (v. 22c)?

The church—redeemed people—is metaphorically called "Christ's **body**" (v. 23a). Describe the mutual relationship between your own head and your own body.

How do you see that same dynamic in your relationship with Christ? How does it need to increase?



Sermon Summary

Key Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

The headship of Jesus Christ empowers the church to make both an **earthly** and an **eternal** impact. In Ephesians 1:15-23 we discover **four distinct truths** about Jesus' leadership of his church.

I. The foundational **marks** of the local church. (15-16)

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (15)

Love for all the saints. (16)

II. The pathway to spiritual **maturity** for the local church. (17-18)

An attitude that seeks to know God. (17)

An understanding of the hope we have in Christ. (18a)

A realization of our eternal inheritance from Christ. (18b)

III. The limitless **might** working within the local church. (19-21)

Saving faith in Christ gives us unlimited access to God's strength. (19)

God's might is displayed in the resurrection and ascension of Christ. (20)

The power of God has exalted Christ above all - now and forever! (21)

IV. The **majesty** of the local church. (22-23)

Christ leads the church. (22)

Christ empowers the church. (23a)

Christ completes the church. (23b)

Christ reigns over all things through His church! (23c)

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints,
¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers:
¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
¹⁸ so that you—the eyes of your heart having been enlightened—will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe according to the working of the might of His strength,
²⁰ which He worked in Christ, by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
²² And He put all things in subjection 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.



God has ordained three institutions—each of which has a "head":

- government—with God-given rulers (read Romans 13:1-7)
- church—with a God-given leader (read Ephesians 1:20-23)
- family—with God-given authorities (read Ephesians 6:1-3)

You've observed first-hand how your family flourishes when your children accept parental authority (for example, accepting the wholesome dinner Mom cooked and going to bed on-time in order to get a good night's sleep). You've also seen how your family struggles when children resist parental authority (the examples are endless—from the "terrible twos" to surly teens!).

This week at the dinner table, have discussions about the purpose and goal of God-given authority (**2 Corinthians 10:8 & 13:10** explains both).

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

Whose church is it anyway? Who's in charge around here?
"Five Question Bible Study" is a great way to learn more about Christ, our Head...

Monday—Study Colossians 1:13-23

Tuesday—Focus on Colossians 1:13-14 & 21-23

Wednesday—Focus on Colossians 1:15-20

Thursday—Study Colossians 2:8-15

Friday—Study Colossians 2:16-19

Saturday—Study Colossians 2:20—3:4

Need blank copies for doing more
"Five Question Bible Study"?
e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]