



*“Who is Jesus?”
And why does it matter?
Colossians 1:19-24
Phil Jennings 10/2/16*

How Christ connects us to God

Review: Jesus is God in the flesh.

Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.

He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead.

So he is first in everything. Colossians 1:18

So the church is now the body of Jesus.

We are the visible representation of the invisible God.

Reminders- As *disciples of Christ* we are partnering with God to become more like Christ.

As the church we are the body of Christ doing the ministry of Christ.

Question: So what did God accomplish through the body of Jesus? Colossians 1:20-22 (NLT)

GOD reconciled mankind through the *body* and *blood* of Jesus.

Romans 5:8 *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

Question: What does the world revolve around? _____

The body of Christ, His Church, is tasked with the ministry of reconciliation. **2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

Gateway has set up the tools you need to help you stay connected to God so you will have the power to influence others.

Grow: Growing in a lifestyle that pleases God.

Connect: Circles are better than rows.

Invite: The ministry of reconciliation requires that we invite others to meet Jesus.

Serve: Serving is a vital part of the body.

Now as you *engage* in all four of these activities with us you will also notice something that most “ME” people will avoid at all costs. That is suffering.

We don’t suffer to atone for our sin. We suffer for righteousness.

There is a *great reward* for those who are faithful.
Romans 8:17-18 (NIV)

Personally: When Jesus connects me to God, I am tasked with connecting others to God through Jesus.

Next Week: Colossians 1:24-29 *God’s Secret*

Who is Jesus- How Christ connects us to God

October's Memory Verse – *For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory. Colossians 1:27 (NLT)*

Monday 10/3- Read Colossians 1:19-24

Question: How can a sinner become righteous?

Truth: *But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—*

Meditate: Colossians 1:20 – *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.*

Prayer: Father God, thank you for reconciling us through Jesus' body given and his blood shed for me on the cross.

Action: Find peace with God through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Who I will share Christ with today:

Tuesday 10/4- Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Question: Having been saved by the death of Christ, what message do we have for others?

Truth: *that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. Vs. 19*

Meditate: 2 Corinthians 5:17 – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come! The old has gone, the new is here!*

Prayer: Jesus, I will continue your ministry of reconciliation.

Action: *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:21*

What God is telling me:

Wednesday 10/5- Read Romans 5:1-11

Question: If I have been saved and my sins are forgiven why would I still suffer?

Truth: *suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope...*

Meditate: Romans 5:8-*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that you are the means of my reconciliation with God.

Action: *Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Vs. 11*

What God is telling me:

Thursday 10/6 Read Romans 8:9-18

Question: Who are the children of God?

Truth: *For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. Vs. 14*

Meditate: Romans 8:10- *But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.*

Prayer: Father lead me by your Spirit. I will follow.

Action: *For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

What God is telling me: _____

Friday 10/7- Read John 1:43-50

Question: What did Philip answer when Nathanael asked, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

Truth: *"Come and see," said Philip.*

Meditate: 1 John 1:45- *Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law,..."*

Prayer: Lord God, open the hearts to the people I will invite to meet Jesus this week.

Action: Learn to Love God and Love Others.

Who will I love this week and invite to church:

Life Group Outline- Who is Jesus, Why does it matter?

Fellowship and Praises-

Take **20-30 minutes** to share what God has been doing in own lives this last week.

Bible verse memorization: *For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.* **Colossians 1:27 (NLT)**

Bible Study Exercise: Read Colossians 1:19-24

Discuss the concept that God lives in Jesus (Jesus is God) and now Jesus lives in his believers (Church is Jesus' Body).

Why is it so freeing to know that the *work of salvation* or the *means of reconciliation* is Jesus' death on the cross?

Read- *And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this **task** of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.*

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

When God gives us a task is it optional? Yes or No

How are you going about the task of reconciling people to God?

How are you using the Power of God to help you share the message of reconciliation with others?

When you suffer for sharing the love of God, the forgiveness of Christ and the truth of God's Word with others what should you do?

Prayer Time-

Going Deeper: Read Romans 5:1-21

From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. Vs. 16

Real Application: Be reconciled to the ministry of reconciliation.