



Pockets of Community



Notes

Week 1: Part 1

Date: Sunday 23rd September 2018

Reading: Colossians 1:24 – 2:5

What is in a word: “church”

In the original Greek, the word used for ‘church’ is *ekklesia* which means “called out ones/people”. But check an English dictionary and ‘church’ is defined differently - as a place or establishment. How do these different definitions impact our understanding of the “Body of Christ” [Col 1:24 & 1 Cor 12]? Have you ever been more protective/committed to ‘church the building’ rather than ‘church the people’?

Where the mystery is revealed

According to Col 1:27 (and Matt 18:20), God has chosen to reveal the mystery of God – which is Jesus Christ - in the church. Does this mean the mystery of God is only seen in relationships, or can it be seen in buildings? [Hint: the mystery of God is not simply a feeling of awe, but salvation, reconciliation, mercy, forgiveness, etc.] When we apply to our relationships the teachings and truths of Jesus, God’s mystery is revealed (Col 1:27, seen in Acts 2:42-47). Describe when you have seen this mystery of God revealed in relationships around you? Where does Bible teaching/study fit into the mystery of Christ revealed?

Engage not attend

We live in a culture which often values choice over commitment. How might the way we view ‘church’ impact how we approach ‘church’? How do we ensure we are part of ‘the church’ (the called out ones) rather than outside observers/commentators on what ‘the church’ should do?