



**Hill Cliffe Study Guide  
Pulling Together  
#2 Godly Togetherness  
Sunday 30 June 2024**

1. What impacted you most from the Sermon on Sunday?

*In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul likens the church to a human body comprising many different and co-dependent parts. This week's teaching focused on our relationship together with the head of our body – Christ. 1 Corinth 12.27 27 Now you are the **body of Christ**, and each one of you is a part of it. This is the fundamental Identity of the Body of Christ, the Church – distinct from any other community of people in the world. We are the body who **bear the Name of Christ our Head** - We are all part of the body that **belongs to Him**.*

2. Please read **1 Peter 2.9-10**: What are the defining characteristics and responsibilities of the people who are God's special possession?

Let's read together some of Paul's classic teaching from Colossians 1 about how the church should relate to our Head. Please read **Colossians 1.15-18**

3. In v15 Jesus is described as the 'firstborn over all creation' – in other words the one with the divine rights of ownership over all creation. How does verse 16 explain why he has this right?
4. What does Paul mean by saying that *all things have been created for him*?
5. Referring to verse 17, in what way do *all things hold together* in him?
6. How does verse 18 describe the fundamental basis of Jesus' relationship with his body (his church), and our relationship with Him?

*God's people have put off the injustice of claiming rights of ownership over our lives that are not ours to claim - so that now in everything HE might have the supremacy...that's how radical this godly community is intended to be. This new way of relating doesn't come naturally – we are naturally self-honouring rather than God-honouring people.*

7. How do we see this struggle over ownership (part for God – part for me) play out in our lives and in church life?
8. What one thing do you/we need to stop grasping for ownership rights from God so that HE might have the supremacy and you/we might have the blessing of His leadership?

*I made reference to a set of discussions I have been involved in with the Baptist Union – where the question was raised, asking whether ordained ministers could be in same-sex marriages. Following an 18-month consultation, the orthodox view of marriage (man-woman) was overwhelmingly affirmed as the only form of marriage appropriate for this context.*

*I referred to a meeting where I agreed with the biblical position of the speaker (affirming an orthodox view of male-female marriage) but had felt so upset by the tone of how gay people were spoken about, that I had to leave the room.*

9. How does this indicate that we need to work hard to honour Christ in His church not only in upholding His theology, but also in upholding His character and His compassion in our relationships?