



*Do You Own This?*

*2nd in the sermon series "Knowing God"*

*Colossians 1:11-20*

*Sunday, January 12th, 2020*

*First Federated Church of Peoria, Illinois*

*The Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel, Jr.*

*Text: He (Christ) is the head of the body, the church... (v. 18)*

Several years as I walked out of a church I saw a boy standing on the sidewalk just staring at the building. The school day was over and he seemed to be one of those little ones who take their time walking home or to the sitter. As I walked toward the sidewalk he turned and asked, "Do you own this?" The question took me by surprise. "No," replied. "Who does?" Now that's an interesting question, isn't it. Sometimes Occam's Razor is the best answer. Occam's Razor says that the simplest solution is most likely the right one." So, I said, "God; God owns it." Satisfied he continued ambling down the street.

There are many fine organizations in the world. Service clubs like Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanias; fraternal organizations like PEO, Masonic Order, and the Shrine; para-faith groups like Cru, Young Life, and Campus Life, but of all of the groups in the world, only the Church sees itself as the Body of Christ on earth.

Last week I talked about how Jesus Christ is the visible manifestation of an invisible God. If we want to know what God is like we need only to look at Christ and his teachings. In other words, Christ is the most complete revelation that we temporal limited human beings can have of the Eternal God.

This reality reminds us that Christ also fully shares our life. There is no part of human existence that is beyond Christ's knowledge or understanding.

When the apostle wrote that He (Christ) is the head of the body, the church he told the Colossians and us today that the Church, big "C" and little "c" church, does not belong to us or to any one generation. We are not the boss. We are not the final authority. But we are called to exercise leadership within the church. We are called to reflect Christ's will, as best as we can understand it in our life together. We are called to set aside our will, bias, and prejudice.

God loves diversity. God created in diversity. We are not all alike. Each one of us has been given specific talents, skills, and interests to be used not just for our pleasure but for God's pleasure. In the first letter to the Corinthians the apostle stated this quite clearly,

You are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

We bring our talents, passions, and giftedness to the work of being bearers of God's Kingdom.

Today we ordain and install officers to our Executive Board and Board of Deacons. By your action they are set aside for a specific period of time to lead us in our common ministry intended to glorify God. The operative word here is "lead," they cannot do the work of the church any more than the clergy can do the work of the church. Each one of us, you and me, are called by God to contribute our best, and in so doing fulfill our baptism.

To God be the glory. Amen.