



who we are.

SERIES: WHO WE ARE

WEEK 1: CHRIST-CENTRED

SPEAKER: PASTOR CRAIG VERNALL

SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Craig opened the new series with a compelling reminder that at the heart of who we are as a church must be Jesus Christ Himself. Drawing from Colossians 1:15–20, he highlighted the supremacy of Christ—the image of the invisible God, the One through whom and for whom all things were created, and the One in whom all things hold together.

Craig also warned that churches can subtly shift away from being Christ-centred, replacing Jesus with tradition, legalism, causes, knowledge, or personality. While these things may begin with good intentions, they become hollow when disconnected from Christ. We are not called to build a brand or club—we are called to be a transformational community centred entirely on Jesus, where lives are changed by His presence, grace, and supremacy.

OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, You are the centre of everything. We welcome You into our lives and our group today. As we reflect on what it means to be Christ-centred, help us to let go of anything that distracts us from You. Speak to us afresh through Your Word. Amen.

ICEBREAKER

If someone asked you what it means to be “Christ-centred,” how would you describe it in your own words?

SCRIPTURE READING

READ: COLOSSIANS 1:15–20

DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

1. JESUS AT THE CENTRE

- What initial observations about Jesus do you make in these verses?
- Why is Paul’s claim that Jesus is “the image of the invisible God” so radical, especially in a Jewish context?
- Read Genesis 1:26–27 and Exodus 20:4–6. Why do you think God didn’t want images made of Him? What about a human-created image is insufficient?

2. ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER

- Craig shared that “in Him all things hold together.” What does this mean practically for your life— in your work, relationships, or purpose?
- Colossians 1:16-17 describes Jesus’ authority above all things. Are there areas in your life that are difficult for you to view as under Jesus’s authority? Why?

3. DISTRACTIONS FROM THE CENTRE

Craig mentioned five things that can subtly replace Christ at the centre of a church:

- Tradition – A culture centred around doing what we’ve always done.
- Legalism – A church defined by what we don’t do.
- Bibliolatry - A culture focused on the knowledge of scripture alone rather than relationship with Jesus.
- Cause-driven – A culture centred around social justice, politics and causes.
- Personality/cult leadership – A culture centred around the pastor or leader.
- Which of these do you think churches today are most vulnerable to? Why? What has been your experience with the list mentioned above?

4. RE-CENTRING ON JESUS

- How do we allow good things (like ministry, study, or service) to drift into distractions if not kept in their right place under Christ?
- Craig said, “Without Christ, there is no transformation.” Where do you desire to see more of that transformation in your own life?
- Read Colossians 1:21-22. How does it feel to know that you’re presented “without blemish and free from accusation” before God because of Jesus?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God, supreme over all creation and the Church.
- The Christian life is not about religion or tradition—it’s about relationship with Christ.
- Churches and individuals drift when anything else takes centre stage—no matter how good it seems.
- True transformation happens when Jesus is at the centre of everything we are and do.

APPLICATION FOR THE WEEK

- Reflect: Is there anything in your life or faith practice that has taken centre stage instead of Jesus?
- Pray: Each morning this week, invite Jesus to take His rightful place at the centre of your thoughts, decisions, and actions.
- Act: Choose one spiritual habit (e.g. worship, prayer, Scripture reading) to intentionally practise this week with the sole aim of drawing near to Jesus—not for productivity or performance, but for relationship.
- Communion (Optional): Share Communion together as a group, remembering Christ as the centre of your salvation, your story, and your church.

PRAYER & CLOSING

- Thank Jesus for who He is and the fullness of God revealed in Him.
- Ask for the courage to remove anything that has taken His place in your heart.
- Pray that your group and church would remain a community fully centred on Christ—now and always.