

A church at the Coalface is one where....

- ... we worship well

Based on material first prepared for family service, 23rd October 2005

Why are we here?

- Start with that as a question!
 - why are we here?
- Go on to:
 - what do we do when we are here?
 - why those things - what relationship do they have with why we are here?
 - is there anything else that we do differently to do with church compared to other things we do? (I'm thinking of dressing differently, not working on Sunday, etc)

When we are here we...?

- Which of the people in the pictures (1-5) do you think is more Godly?
 - cultural context then was such that how people kept their hair cast light on how they thought of God
 - if you were a man and had long hair, it was seen across society as insulting and disgusting - and suggested you had that impression of God
 - if you were a woman and had short hair, it was seen across society as insulting and disgusting - and suggested you had that impression of God
- So Paul says, for the sake of God's glory, change how you behave, and in particular how you come to worship
 - its for his sake, not yours!
 - we come to put our lives under his control, to learn to do that, not to be made to feel good
- So when we sing, pray, read, think about what the Bible says, we are doing it for his sake, not ours.
 - so that he will be king in our lives
 - so that our living will be more aligned to his will
 - so that others will have the opportunity to meet him and find out about him through what we do
- We do things for the glory of God
 - not our own enjoyment or comfort
- Family, all like different things, and "put up with" one another out of love
 - held together by that common love, that family bond
- He is always with us - cf play well when you've someone to play with, behave better when the teacher is in the class...