

Jesus is Head of the Church

Introduction

- The church is described as a body in the NT which means a 2-way relationship between church members & duties of church members (**Rom. 12:4-5**; 1Co. 12:12-27)
- “Church” is also defined not as simply a local gathering of believers (TCC), but as the universal body of believers on earth & in heaven (Heb. 12:22-24).

I. Jesus’ Relationship With the Church (Col. 1:18a)

“Head” implies a close personal & living relationship where:

A. Jesus rules

*The head in this context symbolizes rule & authority; all rule & authority such that the body is not to challenge or rebel against Jesus (Col. 2:9-10). The head is the source of intellect & wisdom. Jesus is perfectly omniscient – He **knows everything** about anything, anywhere & anytime. He never needs council or teaching; never confused; never makes mistakes; never gets hungry, thirsty or tired. He is **able to do** anything. He is the perfect & only head for the church!*

B. The body is dependent (Eph. 4:15b-16)

The body is fully dependent upon Jesus to supply all the essential needs for spiritual life. The body is also dependent upon Him to joint members together, hold them together and provide protection. The body is to be submissive to the rule & authority of Jesus.

C. The body receives all these benefits from heaven

Jesus rose from the dead, spent time with the disciples & went into heaven (Ac. 1:9-11). Jesus rules from heaven & we are waiting for His return from heaven. Many of our blessings are spiritual & God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (Eph. 1:3) – election, redemption, forgiveness, grace, mercy, wisdom, rewards, faith, love, joy, peace, patience...

ILL: SWB merged w/PacTel. My boss in LA – evaluations, pay raises, promotions from LA. I received benefits from LA because boss there!

APPL: Same is true w/Jesus in heaven...; blessed; living relationship

II. Jesus’ Relationship With All Creation (Col. 1:18b-20)

A. He is supreme or pre-eminent (v. 18b)

“πρωτεύω” means to hold the highest rank or to be in first place. He holds the highest rank over all natural & spiritual powers, principalities & authorities – heaven, earth or under the earth; seen or unseen; present, past or future!

B. The reason He is supreme or pre-eminent (v. 19-20)

1) All of God’s character & actions are perfectly revealed in Christ (v. 19).

2) Only the death Jesus could bring reconciliation (eternal peace) to creation that was cursed by sin (v. 20) - 2Co. 5:19; Rom. 8:19-20.

3) The resurrection of Jesus from the dead proved His power & authority over the last enemy which is death (v. 18b). Jesus is the “beginning” of the end for death. Jesus is the first one to conquer death & the grave; first to be raise from the dead with a spiritual body – no more hunger, thirst or pain; never to die again. He is the one who took away the sting & fear of death. Jesus holds the highest rank, first place; there’s no one higher (Phil. 2:9-10).

ILL: SWB merged w/other tel. coms. – AT&T, Ameritech, etc. because SWB proved to be a better manager of investments, debt & technology. The CEO was located in SA, TX & he ruled over states like MI, OH, IL, CA, MO, OK... & international networks in Africa, India, China, etc. All of these people & places received blessings from SA, TX.

APPL: The same is true w/Jesus as Lord over all creation. He rules over everything & everyone; all of creation must submit to His will willing & unwillingly. Everything & everyone receives blessing from Him – food, drink, clothing, shelter, protection, deliverance, healing, mercy, compassion, etc.

CONCLUSION

Therefore my brothers & sisters in Christ, because you are a Christian you are in the body of Christ. We are joined to each other for ministry and we are joined to Jesus Christ for wisdom, guidance, hope, encouragement, power & every provision necessary to do His will. Jesus is the head & we are the body. He is perfectly able to lead us into victory over Satan, sin, the world & flesh. But we must trust Him completely without fear, doubts or procrastination. What is Jesus calling you to do? Is He calling you to take a step in faith, extending a helping hand to someone in need, encourage someone without hope, take the gospel to someone who intimidates you, forgive someone who hurt you deeply... ? Will you trust Jesus the head completely?

If you are not a Christian, you have a wonderful opportunity to make Jesus the head of your life; to make Him your Lord and Savior. You can become a member of the body of Christ and find true fulfillment in life once you learn the purpose for which God created you. But you must believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus. He is the only Savior & will save your soul, but you must believe.

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