

JESUS CHRIST

THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything (Colossians 1:18). Christ is the Ruler of the Church, the Body of all believers of the Church Age; this is called the Universal Church, the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom of Christ (Romans 12:5, 1 Cor. 12:12-13, Eph. 1:22-23, 5:23).

There are four things related to Christ as the Ruler of the Church:

First: Christ is the Head of the Body. As the Head of the Body (made up of all believers of the Church Age), Christ is the Perfect Policy Maker. In analogy, the Body of Christ, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit has tremendous power and the impact of which is the Lord Jesus Christ sets up the policy and provides the power whereby the body functions to the glory of God. Christ is the Source of Authority of the Church. He alone is the authority and no human being shares this with Him in this capacity. He is the Source of Spiritual power. No believer will ever experience the power of God apart from spirituality and his occupation with Christ.

Second: Christ is the Origin of the Church. He alone founded the Church, and He alone is the foundation of the Church. He is called, literally, "the beginning" which means "origin". Christ is the Origin of the Church through His death, burial, resurrection, ascension and session. These formed the foundation of the Church. It is illogical to celebrate the anniversary of the Church because it was founded in from eternity past. The Church is not founded by man but by Christ.

Third: Christ is the Firstborn from the Dead. Firstborn denotes several responsibilities of spiritual leadership: sovereignty, priesthood, heirship, or the double portion and authority.. By resurrection, the humanity of Christ became the sovereign Ruler of the Church, emphasizing His ministry of intercession for the saints. Christ became the Heir of the new creation (the Church) in the sense of providing for the existence of the Church as a regenerate kingdom which always exists.

Fourth: Christ is the King of kings - preeminent. In the Plan of God it is the purpose of God the Father for the Lord Jesus Christ to have the place of preeminence in the lives of the believers. Preeminence is translated as noun in the English text, but it is actually a present active participle, meaning the One who holds first place. The original term were used for champion athletes of the ancient world who held first place. The term is used here for the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who constantly holds first place.

The Scripture declares Jesus Christ as the Preeminent in all things. Christ is preeminent whether or not created beings recognize His preeminence. He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings in truth and reality. Angelic and human beings cannot add or deduct anything from His status of preeminence. Christ is preeminent in the lives of believers who are occupied with the Person of Jesus Christ.

The believer who is not occupied with Christ is a very miserable person, no matter who is or what he is. Such person has focused his eyes on himself, others or things. A believer who has his eyes upon himself is a miserable person, either living in self-glorification or self-abandonment.

A self-centered person is either an unbeliever or believer who has his eyes on others is an unstable person sometimes dwelling in superiority, sometimes in inferiority, depending on the people around him. He is insecure and undependable most of the time because he depends on people's reaction. He depends on approbation, recognition, rejection or disapproval of others. He follows the waves of opinion and is easily carried by the trends of the world.

A believer who has his eyes on things is always chasing after the winds. His life is centered on material things and he is controlled by endless desire for things that cannot satisfy the soul. He uses people and loves material things. Satan can easily divert the focus of believers away from Christ and direct it on self, others or things.

This distraction is subtle and often undetected, making the ignorant believers vulnerable for satanic attack. Too many believers are ultra-sensitive to what other people think and say about them.

Such believers have no strength, power, blessing and capacity to move toward spiritual maturity. Eyes on Christ are occupation with Christ based on knowledge of Bible doctrine. The filling of the Holy Spirit and the knowledge of Bible doctrine are prerequisites to occupation with Christ. Immature, carnal, or ignorant believers will never be occupied with Christ.

Occupation with Christ is absolutely vital and necessary to have the peace and happiness from God. Occupation with Christ is the key that unlocks the door to genuine happiness. The moment-by-moment experience of inner happiness regardless of circumstances is the monopoly of the spiritual mature believers.

Apart from occupation with Christ, this kind of happiness does not exist. Occupation with the Person of Christ is the only thing that stops Satan in his tracks. Satan cannot easily find a loophole in the life of a believer whose eyes are on Christ alone. The standard of happiness for believers is based upon occupation with Christ and the resultant preeminence of Christ in his life.

It is the Plan of God the Father for Christ to be first place in the lives of believers. It is part of God's Plan for us to consistently study Bible doctrine, to focus our eyes on Christ alone, and thereby experience the peace and happiness that comes from God alone enjoying the blessings of time.

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven (Col. 1:19-20).

The Lord Jesus Christ founded, instituted, established, prepared every spiritual and material need, and energized the Church with His power to overcome all the pressures and hostilities of the world. The Church is the most powerful institution, left on earth to carry on the preaching and proclamation of Bible doctrine.

The genuine Church is not political but spiritual institution and it has nothing to do with political change, reformation or endorsement of political candidates.

The genuine Church is separated from the state for they are two opposing systems. The task of the Church is not political and the task of the state is not spiritual.

Jesus Christ is the only Head of the genuine Church, and no human being shares this leadership with Him. He has no successors, no appointees, and no right hand. Only a perfect Person can take this spiritual leadership. The phrase, all the fullness (of God) dwells in Him refers to Christ's uniqueness. As a genuine perfect human being, He is the only Person born without old sinful nature, without the seed of a man, without the Adam's original sin (free from Adam's sinful trends).

The Father is pleased that "all fullness" should dwell in the person of Christ. "Fullness" is the sum total of the all divine power and attributes of God residing in the Person of Christ. Since the Father is pleased with one Member of the human race, and all the believers are in Him, then we have the potential for possessing genuine happiness. Christ has made that happiness available to the believers when they obtained that fullness.

The fullness belongs to all believers but it depends on spirituality and his occupation with Christ through Bible doctrine in the soul. Try this question. Was Christ preeminent in every set of circumstances of your life in the last ten days? If you cannot answer, it is time for rebound, and the filling of the Holy Spirit, followed by occupation with the Person of Christ.

Only then, can He be preeminent, only then can He be glorified. Christ cannot be glorified before the unbeliever until He is glorified in your life (2 Cor. 3:3). The Holy Spirit is waiting to glorify Christ in the lives of the believers. The Ruler of the Church is glorified by the blessings He distributes to believers not by human good works done under the power of old sinful nature. The potential (spirituality and Bible doctrine in the soul) for glorifying Christ is in your hands. You may apply it or reject it.

Christ is the Head of the visible body of the regenerated people in time called the Church and He is the Head of the spiritual kingdom of God.

He alone has the preeminence among the entire human race –able not to sin and not able to sin. God created only One genuine Church but men created too many churches that lead nobody to heaven. It can lead only to self-destruction. The universality of the Church does not automatically include the membership of the entire human race [Colossians 1:17-18].

There is no means of reconciliation other than the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary [Colossians 1:20]. What you think of Christ is not important and it does not affect in any way the reality of perfect work of God. The perfect plan of salvation is not dependent on human perception or opinion.

Everything that comes into being and everything that occurs are decreed by God to happen. No events ever occurred apart from the sovereign will of God. Some things happen because God allows it to happen based on human volition.

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