

# the HEAD OF THE CHURCH

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"He is the Image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of Every Creature. For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers. All things were created by Him, and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the Head of the body, the Church; and He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the Dead; so that in all things He might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell." (Colossians 1:15-19)

"I Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; and that the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints; and what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He accomplished in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; and has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the Church, which is His Body, the fulness of Him that fills all in all." (Ephesians 1:16-23)

"But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, even Christ; from whom the whole body is fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, causing the increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:15-16)

**Head:** from the Greek word *kephale* which means: "the head; figuratively: the leader of something."

**Church:** from the Greek word *ekklesia* which means: "an assembly, a congregation, the whole body of Christian believers: the Church."

**Body:** from the Greek word *somatos*, or *soma* which means: "a physical body, figuratively: the body of Christ, the Church."

With this title Jesus Christ is declared to be **the Head of the Christian Church**. This means that Jesus is the supreme controlling Leader of the whole body of true believers. Furthermore the use of the term 'Body' in reference to the Church illustrates the truly unique relationship that Jesus, as Head of the Church, has with His followers: all believers, throughout all the ages, are the Body of Christ; as it says:

"Now you are the Body of Christ, and members in particular." (1 Corinthians 12:27)

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members do not have, the same function, so we, being many, are one Body in Christ, and every one members one of another." (Romans 12:4)

The Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter twelve, uses the physical body to illustrate this profound relationship between Christ and the Church:

"For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.

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Pg 2

If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now has God set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased Him. ... and if one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the Body of Christ, and members in particular. ..." (1 Corinthians 12: 12-31)

So then, the whole congregation of believers, throughout the ages, are the Body of Christ, and Jesus the Christ is the Head of the Body the Church; and God determines the function of each individual member of the Church.

Furthermore, Paul, shares some beautiful insights concerning Christ and the Church, which he uses to illustrate the right relationship between husbands and wives:

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as **Christ is the Head of the Church: and He is the Savior of the Body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; so that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, so that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**" (Ephesians 5:23-27)

Insights:

- Jesus is the Head of the Church!
- He is the Savior of the Body!
- Christ loves the Church!
- He gave Himself for the Church!
- He sanctifies and cleanses the Church with the washing of water by the word!
- He presents the Church to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that the Church should be holy and without blemish!
- He is the Head over all things to the Church!

## JESUS IS ...

**the Head of the Church;**

**which is the Body of Christ;**

**and we, being many, are one Body in Christ  
baptized together by the Spirit of God;  
and fitly joined together;**

**as it has pleased God!**

**Lord Jesus may we always submit to You in all things – Always and Always**

**Amen and Amen**