



Gleanings from the Word

Experience an extraordinary God in ordinary life

Issue #3072- Names and Titles of Christ - Head of the Church

Last fall I was working my way through a series on the Names and Titles of Jesus and opted to take a break part way through the series. Since that time I have had frequent requests to pick it up again, so it seems to be that time. I will confess that there may be some duplication of names and titles already covered, but they will be written from a fresh perspective. It is my prayer that in the event of duplication you will still gain fresh insights into our Lord and Savior.

This morning we'll look at Jesus as "Head of the Church"

Ephesians 1:17-23 NIV

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 5:21-28 NIV

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ

is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself

Colossians 1:15-20 NIV

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

These verses show with great clarity that Jesus is head over the church. Some might say, "So what?"

The application here is very important. First and foremost it means that you and I are not the heads of the church. That means the church does not exist to meet our every whim and desire. We exist to serve God as part of His church. There is a huge difference between those two approaches.

Now few of us would make the outright statement "I am head of the church" yet we see it show its ugly little face revealed in hundreds of little ways. How many churches are ruled with an iron fists by Granny whose great grandfather built this church? How many times have churches divided because of simple things like the color of the sanctuary carpet was more important than the work of Christ and His church? How many times have we said "At "my" church we ...?" How often has Holy Spirit nudged us to do something only to have us respond with "We've never done it that way before." Far too often.

Jesus is head and he has given us some very specific tasks. We are to love Him with all our heart, mind, souls and strength. We are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We are to go into all the world to make disciples, baptize them and teach them everything He taught. We are to love one another. We are to follow Him.

Jesus is the head. We are supposed to put what we want down and do what He commands.

He is Lord and King. He is in charge. That's a good thing because people mess up all the time. Many terrible things have been done by people in the name of the church, but when we look at them we see that none of them was commanded by Christ. Jesus told his followers to put down the sword not pick it up and go on a conquering crusade. Jesus was a Jew and would never have condoned anti-Semitism. Jesus came for people of every tongue and tribe and would not have approved of racism. Pick a nightmare phase in the church history and you'll see that it was people trying to usurp the authority of Christ.

Until next time, may your life reflect the reality that Jesus is Head of the church.

[For a printer friendly version of today's Gleanings](#)

Hallelu Yah (Praise God)

Be blessed

Kevin

Never let the enemy tell you that you are worthless or insignificant. You have value in the eyes of God so great that it was worth dying for. You are a blessing to the world. You are so precious to God that heaven will not be complete without you.

Help for the Hurting

Jesus rules the church not people. Jesus calls all people into His service and that includes you. The first step is to join His church by surrendering fully to Him and making Him Lord of your life. When you do that He will forgive your sins and give you eternal life.

[If you want to know how to do that simply email us and we will send you some Bible verses that will explain it to you.](#)

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