

The Head of the Church

Colossians 1:13–29 (NIV)

A. Introduction

1. Every organization must have a recognized head or authority to function properly
2. The church is not ultimately governed by traditions, or human leaders.
3. Scripture declares that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church.
4. Paul presents the supremacy of Christ & His relationship to His people.
5. Because Christ is the Head of the Church, He deserves first place in everything.

B. Christ Is the Head Because He Is Our Redeemer

- I. He delivered us from the power of darkness
 1. Humanity was enslaved by sin. Satan exercised influence over fallen mankind.
 2. Christ rescued believers from that bondage. Faith in Christ brings freedom
- II. He transferred us into His kingdom
 1. Salvation involves a change of citizenship; we now belong to Christ's kingdom.
 2. The church consists of redeemed people living under the protection of their King.
 3. Christ, the Light, overcomes the power of darkness
 4. Those who walk with Christ have the light of life (John 8:12)
- III. He purchased our redemption
 1. Redemption required the shedding of His blood.
 2. Christ made peace for us at the cross, reconciling sinners to God (Rom. 5:8-9)
 3. He bought the church with His blood & paid for our sins (1 Peter 1:18-19)
 4. Christ's reconciliation guarantees the ultimate restoration of God's created order.
 5. Forgiveness is possible only through Christ.
 6. The promise of deliverance was given in Eden (Gen. 3:15)
 7. The payment for deliverance was paid at Calvary (1 Peter 1:18-19)
 8. Deliverance was promised in Eden (Gen3:15), & paid at Calvary (1Peter1:18-19)
 9. The church belongs to Christ because He bought it with His own blood.

C. Christ Is the Head Because He Is Supreme Over Creation

1. Jesus is the image of the invisible God, perfectly revealing the Father.
2. To see Christ is to see God's character displayed.
3. He is Creator & sustainer of all things "By Him all things consist."
4. All things were created by Him, through Him & for Him. (John 1:3)
5. Christ is to have the pre-eminence in the Church (v. 18)
6. He is before all things (He is eternal)
7. He is the firstborn from among the dead, the first to rise in a glorified body.
8. His resurrection proves His deity & is the sign of His authority (John2:18-22)
9. Since Christ is supreme over creation, are we becoming more like Him?

D. Christ Is the Head Because He Is Lord of the Church

1. The church is described as Christ's body. He is the Head of the body
2. Every member depends upon Him. Life, direction, and growth come from Him.
3. Christ is the beginning, the source of spiritual life.

4. The church exists because of His work.
5. He has given gifts to the church to serve Him in the church. (Eph. 4:11)
6. Local authority must be carried out in love (1 Cor. 13)
7. Church leaders ought to be Christlike in serving Him
8. Christ's resurrection guarantees the future resurrection of believers.
9. He must have first place in all things, Not merely prominence but pre-eminence.
10. Christ is not one authority among many; He is the supreme authority.
11. Every ministry, program, & decision must be tested by and submitted to His will.
12. Christ must have first place in worship, doctrine, ministry, & decision-making.

E. Christ Is the Head Because He Reconciles All Things

1. The fullness of God dwells in Christ, who possesses all divine authority.
2. Sin kept us from God, but Christ bridged that separation through His sacrifice.
3. The cross is the foundation of reconciliation.
4. Through Christ we are presented holy, blameless & above reproach before God.
5. Who can measure such grace or understand such love?
6. Nothing on earth or in heaven can separate us from His love (Rom. 8:38-39)
7. Believers are called to continue in the faith. Genuine faith perseveres.
8. The church must never move away from the message of Christ crucified & risen.

F. Christ Is the Head Because He Directs the Mission of the Church

1. Christ's servants suffer for His cause; Faithful ministry often involves sacrifice.
2. Christ entrusted the church with His revealed truth. a mystery hidden for ages.
3. Gentiles share equally with Jews in God's salvation through union with Christ.
4. The gospel is for all people. Christ lives within His people
5. "Christ in you, the hope of glory."
6. There is a False Hope (1 Cor. 15:19).
7. Some are relying on possessions, success, religion or good works
8. Some have No Hope (Eph. 2:12)
9. Without Christ there is no lasting certainty, as death exposes false foundations.
10. Believers have the Hope of Glory (Col. 1:27)
11. We have a confident expectation of God's promises to empower present living.
12. Christ's resurrection guarantees our resurrection & future glory.
13. The goal of ministry to present every believer mature in Christ.

G. Conclusion

1. Paul's great concern was that Christ would have the pre-eminence in all things.
2. He is the Redeemer, the Creator, the Reconciler & Lord.
3. As Christ is Head of the Church, are we submitting to His headship?
4. Is Christ first in our worship? our doctrine? our decisions? our lives?
5. May we gladly come before Him and seek Him in all things *"that He might have the pre-eminence"* (Colossians 1:18).