

## Christ: The Head of the Church

### I. The **Metaphor**

- A. Jesus' Resume leads us to the only conclusion we can have, Christ is preeminent
- B. Metaphor; a thing regarded as representative or **symbolic** of something else, especially something we find hard to **comprehend**
- C. Frequent use of Metaphors (so much connected that it is as the same)
  1. Messiah metaphors; the bread of life; the Lamb of God; the Light of the world, the Word of God, the Resurrection and the Life, the Vine
  2. Church metaphors; city on a hill, salt of the earth, the branches,
  3. Philippians 2:5–6; <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (robbery)
- D. Metaphors make hard concepts **easier** to understand
  1. The Son of God
  2. My son didn't exist before me, he had his beginning in me
  3. I am a son
- E. A powerful message about something so vast, but in language we can understand
- F. Plato and the stoics wrote about the cosmos and that the cosmos have wisdom as its head (Greek word Logos)
- G. The head of the Cosmos is **Logos**
  1. John 1:1–3; <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
  2. In Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 we have metaphors of the church as the body, but in how we relate to one another
  3. Here in Colossians and in Ephesians we have metaphors of the church as the body but in how we relate to Christ
  4. Ephesians 1:20–23; <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
- H. In Ephesians and Colossians, the language would seem to indicate that (in Paul's mind, in the Holy Spirit's mind) the church is the center of the Cosmos
  1. Matthew 11:11; Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
  2. John is greater than a great list of people; Father of Faith Abraham, A man after God's own heart David, the one who tamed the lions' mouths Daniel,
  3. He who is least (the one who has trouble making it to Bible class, etc.)
  4. Why is he greater? does he have greater faith, a heart for god?
  5. No, he is in the center of the universe (cosmos) whereas those others were not
  6. Matthew 16:18–19; <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

7. He is the firstborn from the dead and we will follow in His likeness (death and resurrection)
  8. 1 John 3:2; Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.
- I. While the earth will burn up in fervent heat, we will live on because we are the center of the cosmos
  - J. Three simple applications from this verse
- II. The Body cannot **survive** without the head
    - A. Head - **source**, origin
    - B. Colossians 1 - belief and obedience immediately **translate** us into the kingdom, we become a part of the **center** of the cosmos
    - C. Jesus becomes our **head** (we cannot survive without Him)
    - D. Cut off any body part and you can survive, but cut off the head and it is a death sentence
  - III. The Body cannot **direct** itself
    - A. We are part and parcel to a democratic society, we get a voice in everything (the way we were brought up, our way of life)
    - B. But the bible does not ever describe the body as democratic (everyone having a voice)
      1. Judges 17:6; In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
      2. Judges 21:25; In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
      3. Romans 8:6–8; <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
    - C. To be useful the body must **submit** to the mind
      1. Body parts are not entitle to an opinion
      2. Submission - to be or become under the dominion or authority of another
      3. Ephesians 5:22–24; <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.
      4. Cells that do their own thing and do not act like there are supposed to are called one thing, cancer
      5. University of Columbia study into the interaction of the 11 most prominent symphonies
        - a) percussionists = insensitive, strings = arrogant, brass = loud, woodwinds = overly meticulous
        - b) How can these 11 most prominent symphonies possible work together with such a view of each other?
        - c) They submit to the conductor
    - D. We cannot direct **ourselves**, but only be directed by Christ
  - IV. The Body is only **identified** through the head
    - A. Who are we?
    - B. Who am I?
    - C. The only answer for us is through Jesus
    - D. John 14:6; Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- E. John 8:24; I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”
- F. **We** are identified by our head
  - 1. Look at the pictures in the north foyer
  - 2. Look at the pictures in the directory
  - 3. No torso shots, only head shots
- G. Do we **elevate** the head to the world, or the body parts?
  - 1. Silly pictures taken at carnivals with the cutouts
  - 2. The picture of a family only with holes where the heads are so that you can place your own there
  - 3. The child can be the dad, the dad can be the mom, etc.
  - 4. It ends up looking like a monstrosity
- H. Elevating church programs or visions above Jesus (we are the church that does \_\_\_\_\_, or we are the conservative church)
  - 1. 1 Corinthians 1:10–13; <sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. <sup>11</sup> For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
  - 2. Have we elevated the body above the head?
  - 3. If so, we have made a monstrosity of the church, the center of the cosmos

#### V. **Preeminence**

- A. Colossians 1:18; And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.
- B. Have first place, to rank **above** all others
- C. The only place this word is used in the NT is here in Col 1:18
- D. Is He preeminent, first place, above all others to **us**?