

# The Headship of Christ

Jesus Christ claimed to possess all authority “in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:19). He did not usurp authority. The heavenly Father gave Him that authority (John 5:27). His rule and power extends “from sea to sea” and “to the ends of the earth” (Zechariah 9:10). Enthroned at the right hand of God Almighty, Christ is “far above all principalities and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named” (Ephesians 1:21).

God the Father also made Christ Jesus “Head over all things to the church” (Ephesians 1:22). The church of Christ is the called-out body of saved people in Christ. Jesus built the church (Matthew 16:18). He purchased her with His blood (Acts 20:28). Since the church is the body of believers of whom He is their Savior (Ephesians 5:23), rightfully Christ is the Head in the spiritual union and fellowship of the church. As sole Head of the church, the Lord leads through sacrificial love. He is concerned about the health of His spiritual bride, His church. He sanctifies and cleanses “that He might present her to Himself a glorious church” (Ephesians 5:27).

Headship is a chief position of authority, leadership given the power to command. Just as there is one body (Ephesians 4:4), there is one Head of that body. No other but Jesus alone has been put over all things. The head governs and directs all activities of the body. That is why the Lord commanded apostles to teach disciples “to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). A true disciple of Christ is a believer who abides in Christ’s word (John 8:31), who keeps His commandments (14:15). Having been given authority to execute judgment, too, Christ the Lord will judge us according to His word (12:48). As pointed out by the apostle Peter, if judgment begins with God’s house, [which is the church (I Timothy 3:15)], “what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (I Peter 4:17).

The church has been called to subject herself in everything to Christ. The will and doctrine of Christ must be upheld and obeyed because He is the Head of the church. To neglect to adhere to any of His teaching is to transgress against His authority. His will ought never to be carelessly set aside. To add unauthorized traditions, which are prevalent in denominations, is to exalt the wisdom of men above divine revelation. By so doing irreverence is practiced. Disregard for Christ’s Headship is manifested when churches rely on a system of church hierarchy, a board of directors or an association of representatives to govern. Jesus has already ordained what is acceptable to Him. All men will give an account to Christ.