

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture texts: **Colossians 1:18; 2:19; Ephesians 1:22-23.**
- B. For many this sermon is but a review of a well known fact.
- C. Let us then be well grounded in this great fundamental truth.

I. DIFFERENT TERMS USED TO DESCRIBE GOD'S PEOPLE.

- A. My study has produced some 12 different descriptive terms in defining the saved:
 1. A bride (Eph. 5:33; see Rev. 19:7; 21:2, 9-10).
(**Eph 5:33**) Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.
 2. A temple (1Cor. 3:16-17; see 1Pet. 2:5).
(**1Cor 3:16-17**) Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? **17** If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.
 3. A kingdom (Mt. 16:19; see Rev. 5:9-10).
(**Mt 16:19**) "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
 4. A household (1Tim. 3:15).
but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.
 5. An assembly (Heb. 12:23).
to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,...
 6. Churches "congregations" (Gal. 1:2).
and all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:
 7. A flock, "sheep" (Ac. 20:28; see Jn. 10:16; 1Pet. 5:2).
(**Ac 20:28**) "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
 8. A church (Mt. 16:18; see Ac. 20:28).
(**Mt 16:18**) "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."
 9. The "family" (Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:15; 2Cor. 6:18).
(**Jn 1:12**) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,....
(**Rom 8:15**) For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"
(**2Cor 6:18**) "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.
 10. A building (1Cor. 3:10).
According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it.
 11. Abraham's seed or offspring (Gal. 3:29).
And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.
 12. A body (Eph. 1:22-23; see 1Cor. 12:12-27).
(**Eph 1:22-23**) And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, **23** which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all.
- B. Depending on religious background and degree of education some concepts are not as understandable as others. The easiest concept to relate to is that of a body. When JC says He is the head of the body, we know what He means.

II. ALLEGIANCE TO THE CHURCH.

- A. Many in the world today who claim to be Xians and part of “Christendom” say they give their allegiance to X. However, many of them want nothing to do with the church or organized religion. Being a “Xian only” to some means being a Xian and not a member of any organized religious body.
- B. This is sad because Jesus died for the church. He died that we might become Xians in that one church (Eph. 5:23; Ac. 20:28; Titus 2:14).
(Ac 20:28) “...shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
(Eph 5:23) Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.
(Ti 2:14) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
- C. With this in mind, let us give closer examination to Eph, 1:22-23 where Paul says that Jesus is head of “all things to the church” (NAS, KJV). The NIV says, “to be head over everything for the church.” Paul didn’t say Jesus was head of the church (he said that in Col. 1:18), but here he says that X is head over all things to the church.
- D. As we develop the five areas above, we must do so with Jesus as the head or authority over all of them. Any practice of the five above w/o the approval of X, is to do something in the church without X as head of it.
- E. Jesus taught, in His personal ministry, on each of the five areas. Let us review what He said.

III. HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH.

- A. Headship implies authority (Mt. 28:18; 1Cor. 15:24).
- B. To disregard the authority of X in matters pertaining to the church is to not recognize Him as head of the church (Col. 3:17).
- C. Every religion has the following five parts. In light of Eph. 1:23, notice the following...
- D. **First, the form or entrance requirements** (Mk. 16:16).
“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”
 1. Any change in the plan of salvation is to loose where Jesus has not loosed.
 2. Any church that changes its plan of salvation is a church Jesus is not the head of!
- E. **Second, the organization** (Mt. 19:28; Eph. 4:7, 11-13).
(Mt 19:28) And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
(Eph 4:7, 11-13) But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. **11** And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.
 1. Any changes in organizational structure are prohibited if X is to remain head of the church and head over all things to it.
 2. Any church that changes its organizational structure is a church Jesus is not the head of!
- F. **Third, unity** (Jn. 17:20-23).
“I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; **21** that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me. **22** “And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one; **23** I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me.”
 1. Jesus prayed fervently that all those who would become Xians would be united (one).
 2. Any church that changes X’s plea for unity is a church that Jesus is not the head of!
- G. **Fourth, worship** (Jn. 4:23-24).
“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. **24** “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
 1. To use potato chips and Pepsi for the LS is to do that which has no authority by X.

2. Any church that changes its pattern of worship is a church Jesus is not the head of!
- H. Fifth, work.
1. **Evangelism** (Lk. 19:10; Mk. 16:15).
 (Mk 16:15) And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
 (Lk 19:10) “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 2. **Edification** (Mt. 28:20).
 “teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;”
 3. **Benevolence** (Mt. 25:37-40).
 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? 38 ‘And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 39 ‘And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 “And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’”
- I. Any belief, method, practice, or tradition which departs from known NT commandments means that Jesus is not the head of that method, practice, or tradition. We cannot say that Jesus is the head of the church (has all authority) and not do what He says or approves (Jn. 16:13; 1Cor. 14:37).
 (Jn 16:13) “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”
 (1Cor 14:37) If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The Bible teaches that JC:
 1. Is the head of the church (Col. 1:18).
 2. Is head over all things to the church (Eph. 1:22,23).
 3. Has all authority over the church (Mt. 28:18).
- B. As the church carries out its functions in form, organization, unity, worship, and work; it must be done in such a way that JC remains the head of all these things.
- C. Anything that departs from the teachings of X and the apostles means that such is not in keeping with X as head of all things to the church.
- D. When one strives to keep the authority of X foremost in all aspects of life, work, and worship he/she will be fulfilling Col. 3:17.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.