

## Who Is Jesus Part 2

The Head of the Church

*Ephesians 1:22-23*

*Memory Verses: Colossians 1:18*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

In **Matthew 16:13-20** Jesus asks his disciples, who do people say that I am. It's a great question. Who is Jesus? Who is Jesus to the world? Who is Jesus in the context of history and philosophy? But most importantly, who is Jesus to you?

Is he a wise sage with lots great proverbs and advice on how to live in peace with other humans? If so, how do you correlate that with the fact that he claims to be God? If he isn't God then he is either a liar or a lunatic... which really makes the possibility of him being a wise, good, philosopher kind of unrealistic. You can't say he's good and not God.

The right answer is that of Peter; "you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." He is the promised Chosen One who came to save the world by dying on a cross and shedding his blood for the remission of all of our sins. He is the Christ... and he proved it through his royal lineage, by crushing the serpent, and by dying and rising again. And that's where we started last week. If you weren't here, feel free to watch or listen to it on our website or facebook page.

Now, this morning we are going to look at another aspect of who Jesus is. And this aspect pertains directly to the dedication of our relaunch as a church, this ministry and to the dedication of our new building and all that... So go ahead and look with me at **Ephesians 1:22-23**. He, that's God, has put all things under the feet of Jesus... including the church... making Christ the head over all things to the church and filling the church with his fullness. Simply put... Jesus is the head of the church. **Colossians 1:18**... and he is the head of the body, the church. This morning the takeaway is this... **If You Want The Fullness of God... Find a Church With Christ at It's Head.**

You see... there are plenty of churches all across the world, all across America, all across Danville and Pittsylvania County... but if Christ isn't the head of those churches... they aren't his body... they aren't really the church. The thing that makes a church a church is that they have Christ as their head, making them the body of Christ. No head... no body... no Christ... no church. Simple right? Then why are there so many headless churches? Why are there so many places called churches where the Gospel isn't being preached, where the Word isn't being taught, and where Christ isn't the head?

As I look around this room today, I praise God that I see men and women here this morning representing probably at least a dozen or more different churches or ministries in our area; churches and ministries we are proud to partner with because they depend on Christ as their head. But don't be fooled... there are many others in this world who don't. There are many churches who started out with Christ at the head, but overtime they have taken the reigns out of his hand... and in the process the power and the presence of God has diminished and now instead of bringing glory to our Lord they have defamed his great name.

We can't be that church. So the purpose of this short message and the purpose of this dedication service today is simply... LORD, make Stone Creek Church a church that always keeps you as the head. Never let us take our eyes off of you. Never let us put our trust in our own strength, never let us do thing our own way, and never let us in our own pride try to take your place as head of the Church. Let us be a church where Jesus is always in control and where the fullness of the presence of God dwells. Amen

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

Real quick, let's examine this verse about Christ as the head of the church. The first thing we notice is that **As Head of the Church, Christ Compels Our Actions**. God has granted to Christ headship over all things "to" the church. Notice... God didn't just give Jesus headship "in" the church... but "to" the church... implying that he isn't just head over the church but also over all the things that are within the realm of church ministry. As the head of the church and to the church he is in control of the church and the individuals who make up the church.

Therefore, the organization known as the local church does what Christ wants them to do. He is their supreme leader. Through the Bible, the very words of Christ, and through prayer, it is the main responsibility of Pastors, Elders, and Deacons to discern the desire of Christ for their church. For a general sense of ministry they are to obey his commands in the Bible. Feed the poor, clothe the needy, take care of orphans and widows, worship, evangelize, and disciple. These remain the same for all local churches within the Church. But for specific methods, they are to pray and seek his counsel diligently. This is what it looks like for a local church to have Christ at the helm.

But we are also to be reminded that we don't obey Jesus as our leader, simply because he commands. Jesus isn't a Tyrant. Now, we obey because we are compelled to follow him. **2 Corinthians 5:14** tells us clearly that it is the love which Christ has shown us that is the key motivator in our allegiance to him. And make no mistake about it... Jesus has loved us more than we can ever explain or know. He gave his very life for us.

And, we trust him. He has earned our trust. He has never led us astray... and always finds a way. Therefore we depend on him as the head of the church. We must. That is why the vision / mission statement of Stone Creek Church is thus.. **Depending on Christ will reach our world with the Gospel to see lives completely transformed .**

Because he is our leader we will follow him. **If You Want The Fullness of God... Find a Church With Christ at It's Head.**

Secondly, **As Head of the Church, Christ Completes The Church.**

God gave Christ "to" the church. He isn't just the leader of the church but he is also the greatest gift ever given to the church. It's simple... without Christ there is no purpose, meaning, vision, or power within these walls, within this congregation. As we've said a few times today already... without Christ there is no church.

As the verse states... the church is the fullness of him. Simpler put, Christ completes the Church. The Church is the completion of Christ's plan of redemption... and without Christ there is no church. But, I also believe this means that Christ has given his fullness to the church through the Holy Spirit. Christ is not holding back any of himself to the church. His power, peace, perseverance, strength, and all the spiritual gifts are at our disposal. As **Romans 8:32** says, if Jesus wasn't withheld from us why would anything be withheld from us. The point is simple... **A christ-less church is an incomplete, incompetent, and incapable country club .** **If You Want The Fullness of God... Find a Church With Christ at It's Head**

Lastly... **As Head of the Church, Christ Changes The World.**

He fills all in all. Christ's plan is to fill the whole world with his glory and he is using the church to accomplish this. **Ephesians 3:10** tells us that through the church the manifold wisdom of God will be made known.

**With Christ as the head of the Church and the Church following his lead... we have the ability to fill the whole world with the glory of God...** Infact... the only way we accomplish our mission is to follow the lead of Christ. **If You Want The Fullness of God... Find a Church With Christ at It's Head**

### **Application (Resolution, You)**

I think every church wants to be the best church they can be... but often those churches are trying to do it in their own strength under their own leadership.... what a self-defeating premise. The only way we can be the church we want to be, to reach people for with the life transforming power of the Gospel... is to let Jesus take the lead. He is the head of the universal Church... and he needs to be the head of your church. He

must be the head of this Church.... and thats what we are dedicating to the Lord today... that we, as a part of Stone Creek Church commit to make Christ for now and always, the head of our church. **If You Want The Fullness of God... Find a Church With Christ at It's Head**

### **Conclusion**

Dedication prayers.