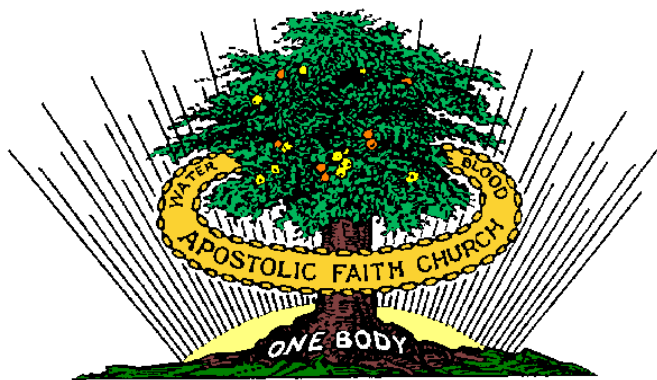


Apostolic Faith Church
66 Muscliffe Road,
Winton,
Bournemouth,
Dorset
BH9 1NW



Showers of Blessing

No. 5503 28/11/24

• Angola • Botswana • D. R. Congo • Lesotho • Malawi • Mozambique • Namibia • South Africa • Swaziland • Zambia • Zimbabwe •
♦ Tel. 01202 528270 ♦ Registered Charity No. 238009 ♦ e-mail: afc1hq@gmail.com ♦ Web: <http://www.afc-bmth.co.uk/> ♦

Understanding the Mysteries of the Body Christ: The Headship of Christ

The Word of God presents Christ as the Head of the body, which is the Church, emphasizing His supreme authority, divine guidance, and unifying role in the spiritual life of believers. This fact is richly woven in scripture throughout the New Testament, and reveals the profound relationship between Christ and His body, highlighting both the dependency of the Church on Him and the interconnectedness of its members.

The Apostle Paul consistently speaks of Christ as the Head of the Church. In Colossians 1:18, Paul declares, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." This portion of scripture affirms Christ's preeminence in all things, emphasizing that His resurrection secures His rightful position as Head.

Similarly, in Ephesians 1:22-23, Paul writes, "And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all." This passage underscores Christ's divine authority and His role in filling the Church with His presence and purpose.

Christ's Role as the Head of the Church

1. Authority and Leadership

As the Head, Christ possesses ultimate authority over the Church. Just as the head directs the body, Christ governs the believers, guiding them through His Word and by the Spirit. His authority is loving and sacrificial, as demonstrated in **Ephesians 5:23-25**, where Paul compares a husband's selfless love for his wife to Christ's sacrificial leadership to the Church.

2. Source of Life and Growth

The head is essential for the body's vitality, and Christ serves as the source of spiritual life for believers. In the book of **Colossians 2:19**, Paul speaks of the body being nourished and held together by Christ, "...from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God". Christ supplies the Church with everything necessary for its spiritual growth and maturity.

3. Unity and Coordination

The body functions as a cohesive whole because of the head's direction. In the same way, Christ unifies the Church, fostering harmony among believers. **1 Corinthians 12:12-27** elaborates on the body analogy, showing that each member has a unique role but is

dependent on the Head and is interconnected with other members. This unity is rooted in Christ's headship, which transcends divisions and promotes cooperation.

The Church's Response to Christ

1. Submission and Obedience

Recognizing Christ as the Head calls for submission to His authority. Believers are to seek His will and align their lives with His Word. Paul encourages the Church in the book of **Ephesians 4:15-16**, to grow up in every way into Christ, who is the Head, indicating that there is a process of continual alignment and maturity under His leadership.

2. Interdependence Among Members and Gifts

Just as the body relies on its several and different parts to function effectively, the Church grows and thrives when believers walk in their callings (Ephesians 4:1-7) and embrace and operate in their different roles and variety of gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-20) "according to the measure of faith the Lord has assigned" (Roman 12:3-7) so as to contribute to the functioning of the body and the community of believers in the society in which the Church exists. Christ as the Head ensures that every member's gifts and abilities are used for the common good, fostering spiritual health and growth. For "grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift" according the Ephesians 4:7.

3. Mission and Witness

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (ESV). These are the words of the Lord Jesus in Acts 1:8. Pastor James Hutchinson-Dennis in his writing states that the purpose of the "ENDUREMENT OF POWER" through the Holy Spirit was for the believers to become "WITNESSES UNTO CHRIST." The Church, as Christ's body, acts as His representative in this world. Just as the body carries out the desires of the head, believers are called to embody Christ's love, grace, and truth, serving others, and spreading the Gospel, bringing many to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Christ as the Head of the body is a powerful and comforting truth for the Church. Christ's headship assures and guarantees the Church's protection, direction, and ultimate triumph over sin and death. His leadership is marked by His love and sacrifice, as seen in His willingness to die for the Church (Ephesians 5:25). This assurance inspires believers to remain steadfast, trusting in His sovereign plan. As we grow in understanding and submission to the headship of Christ, we reflect His glory and fulfill His purpose for the Church. We are encouraged, therefore, to align our lives with the will of our Head, our Lord, knowing that in Him, the Church finds its identity, direction, purpose and ultimate Victory.

Rev. Jeremiah Sande, Deputy Int. Chief Overseer

