

## The Present Work of Jesus

What work is Jesus doing now?

## Introduction

- Will refer to Jesus' past work but not our focus – dying on cross and being raised so we may be saved
- Will refer to His future work but not our focus – His second coming and judgment of all
- Our focus – what work is Jesus doing now and how does it benefit us today?

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## Introduction

- Creative and redemptive work complete
- Still much work being done presently as He is ruling in heaven
- We will focus on great Bible teachings about Jesus' person and position
- We will also focus on the attitudes and actions we must display in light of these teachings

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## The Present Work of Jesus

Jesus – Sustainer of The Universe  
Jesus – Lord of all and king of the nations  
Jesus – Head of His one church  
Jesus – Our perfect high priest

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## The Present Work of Jesus

Lesson 3

Jesus – Head of His One Church

## Introduction

- Observe many churches that conflict with each other in
  - Name
  - Organization
  - Worship
  - Teaching
- Strangely, all claim to be a part of Jesus' one church of which He is head
- How can this possibly be true?

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## Introduction

- Scriptures plainly teach of Jesus building only one church with Him as its only head
- Confusion has come because of misunderstanding about
  - Nature of Jesus' headship
  - Nature of Jesus' church
- Understanding how Jesus is head and what Jesus is head of is essential for only those in His church will be saved

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## Jesus Will Save Only Members of His One Church

Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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## Jesus Will Save Only Members of His One Church

Eph 4:4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

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## Introduction

- Confusion on Jesus' headship and nature of his church in denominations and churches of Christ
- We will note examples of this false thinking that leads to false ideas and practices
- To be a member of something other than Jesus' church will not save us!

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## Jesus – Head of His One Church

Jesus is now head of His one church

Jesus' one church, His body

Practical applications

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## Jesus Is Now Head of His One Church

What does head mean?

How did Jesus become head?

How does Jesus communicate as head?

What are some characterizes of His headship?

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## What Does Head Mean?

- Head is a figure of speech describing Jesus' position of authority over His church
- Parallel to human head (brain) being in absolute control of human body (individual parts)
- Jesus is now head over His one church, has absolute authority to control all members

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## Jesus Now Absolute Head of His One Church

Eph 5:22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

Eph 5:24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

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## How Did Jesus Become Head?

- Jesus foretold he would build His one church
- First He became savior of His one church by dying for our sins
- Then, the Father raised Him from the dead, proving Him to be savior and giving Him all authority as King of all and head of His one church

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## Jesus Foretold He Would Build His One Church

Mat 16:15 He \*said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mat 16:17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

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## Jesus Foretold He Would Build His One Church

Mat 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

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## Jesus' Death For Forgiveness of Sins – Save His One Church

Mat 26:27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you;

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

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## Jesus' Death For Forgiveness of Sins – Save His One Church

Act 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.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

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## Raised From The Dead To Be Made Head of His One Church

Mat 26:32 "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

Eph 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

Eph 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

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## Raised From The Dead To Be Made Head of His One Church

Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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## How Does Jesus Communicate As Head?

- Jesus foretold the apostles would be guided by the Holy Spirit so they could speak and teach all truth
- Written Word, New Testament, we have today is the will of Jesus, the head, expressed through apostles and other inspired men

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## Holy Spirit Guided Apostles And Inspired Men Into All Truth

Mat 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Mat 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

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## Holy Spirit Guided Apostles And Inspired Men Into All Truth

Mat 18:18 "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

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## Holy Spirit Guided Apostles And Inspired Men Into All Truth

Joh 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Joh 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.

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## Holy Spirit Guided Apostles And Inspired Men Into All Truth

Act 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

Act 2:2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

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## Holy Spirit Guided Apostles And Inspired Men Into All Truth

Act 2:3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

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## Holy Spirit Guided Apostles And Inspired Men Into All Truth

Eph 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

Eph 3:4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Eph 3:5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

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## False Ideas About How Jesus Communicates As Head

- False Catholic idea – The Pope, Christ's representative, is successor of apostles and has the right to bind his words on people today
- They view Peter as above other apostles and Pope is successor of Peter
- Pentecostal false idea – Holy Spirit speaks directly to us today apart from written Word

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## Jesus Is Now Head of His Church

What does head mean?

How did Jesus become head?

How does Jesus communicate as head?

What are some characterizes of His headship?

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## The Present Work of Jesus

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## What Are Some Characterizes of His Headship?

Absolute authority  
Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,  
Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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## What Are Some Characterizes of His Headship?

Body has no right to function unless directed by the head  
the Savior of the body.  
Eph 5:24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

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## What Are Some Characterizes of His Headship?

Both loving and authoritative head  
Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,  
Eph 5:26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

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## What Are Some Characterizes of His Headship?

Both loving and authoritative head

Eph 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

Eph 5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

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## What Are Some Characterizes of His Headship?

Both loving and authoritative head

Eph 5:29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,

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## Jesus' One Church, His Body

What is His body, His one church?

Overcoming misconceptions of His church

His body subject to Him, its head

How do we become members of His body, His one church?

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## What Is His Body, His One Church?

- Body is a figure of speech used to describe Jesus' one church
- Jesus as head controls, rules over His one church
- Jesus' one church, His body, is composed of individuals who have submitted themselves to Him and who He has saved
- Jesus' one body, His church is that assembly of individuals who He saves by His gospel

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## Jesus' Body Is His One Church?

Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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## Jesus Rules Over His Body, His One Church

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

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## Jesus' Body, His One Church, Composed of Individuals

1Co 12:12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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## Jesus' Body, His One Church, Composed of Individuals

1Co 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

1Co 12:27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

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## Overcoming Misconceptions of His Church

None of these ideas in New Testament

Catholic view of Jesus' one church

Protestant view of Jesus' one church

Some churches of Christ view of Jesus' one church

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## Catholic View of Jesus' One Church

- Church is universal organization composed of local groups that has a centralized leadership, the Pope and college of cardinals
- Church is between Christ and men dispensing blessing on members and revealing truth to them

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## Catholic View of Jesus' One Church

1CO 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

ACT 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.

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## Protestant View of Jesus' One Church

- Universal organization composed of denominations
- Denomination is a group of local churches that work together as "one"
- Many denominations have centralized leaderships
- Result is a body of bodies that contradict one another in name, organization, teaching and practice

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## Protestant View of Jesus' One Church

1CO 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

1Co 4:17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

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## Some Churches of Christ' View of Jesus' One Church

- Universal organization composed of local churches
- These local churches work together as "one" through either human institutions or sponsoring churches
- A sponsoring church is a local church that oversees the work of other local churches

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## Some Churches of Christ' View of Jesus' One Church

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ACT 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.

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## Biblical' View of Jesus' One Church

- His church is not an institution but a collection of people from all nations that come to Him on the same terms of obedience to the gospel and remain faithful to him by following the same teaching, the teaching of His apostles
- Members of His body meet together in various locations and function as local churches only as the head directs them to do

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## Biblical' View of Jesus' One Church

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ACT 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.

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## His Body Subject To Him, Its Head

- Concerning how to be saved and how to work and worship together as a local church, we must be subject to only Jesus as head, following His written Word
- Also, in all areas of our lives, we must yield to the head's authority

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## His Body Subject To Him, Its Head

Eph 5:24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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## His Body Subject To Him, Its Head

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Col 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

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## His Body Subject To Him, Its Head

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

Col 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

Col 3:21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

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## How Do We Become Members of His Body, His One Church?

- Because Jesus will only save those who are members of His one church, His body, it is essential we become a part of that one body
- This happens when we obey the gospel to become saved or forgiven, Jesus adds us to His one church
- To remain in His body, we must be faithful to the apostles teaching, rejecting Catholicism and Protestantism

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Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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## How Do We Become Members of His Body, His One Church?

Act 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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## How Do We Become Members of His Body, His One Church?

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

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## Jesus' One Church, His Body

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## Practical Applications

Jesus is head of His one church, no one else

Truth originates from the head, not the body

The body is saved by the head, not by an organization

We cannot believe and practice anything we desire

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## Practical Applications

Local churches are not members of His body

Jesus' authority as head applies to our daily lives

Unity comes as members submit to Him as head

As individuals grow, the body grows

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## Jesus Is Head of His One Church, No One Else

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

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## Truth Originates From The Head, Not The Body

1Co 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

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## Truth Originates From The Head, Not The Body

1Co 14:36 Was it from you that the word of God *first* went forth? Or has it come to you only?

1Co 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.

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## The Body Is Saved By The Head, Not By An Organization

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

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## We Cannot Believe And Practice Anything We Desire

This is basis of denominationalism – we can be divided and still accept one another as brethren

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## We Cannot Believe And Practice Anything We Desire

1Co 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1Co 1:11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you.

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## We Cannot Believe And Practice Anything We Desire

1Co 1:12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."

1Co 1:13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

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## Local Churches Are Not Members of His Body

- A local church is a group of saints meeting in a given area to work and worship as the Lord, the head, commands
- These local churches are composed of individual members of the body but as organizational units they are not individual units of the Lord's body. That is denominationalism, seeing the Lord's church as a group of local churches

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## Local Churches Are Not Members of His Body

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Php 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

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## Local Churches Are Not Members of His Body

1Pe 5:2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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## Jesus' Authority As Head Applies To Our Daily Lives

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Eph 4:25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.

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## Jesus' Authority As Head Applies To Our Daily Lives

Eph 5:22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

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## Jesus' Authority As Head Applies To Our Daily Lives

Eph 6:5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

Eph 6:9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

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## Unity Comes As Members Submit To Him As Head

- No centralized earthly headship authorized to enforce unity in Jesus' body
- Unity among members of His body comes when members voluntarily submit to the head

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## Unity Comes As Members Submit To Him As Head

Eph 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

Eph 4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

Eph 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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## Unity Comes As Members Submit To Him As Head

Eph 4:4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
Eph 4:6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

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## As Individuals Grow, The Body Grows

Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

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## As Individuals Grow, The Body Grows

Eph 4:13 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 fullness of Christ.

Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

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## As Individuals Grow, The Body Grows

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

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