
Lesson 6 - The Head, Administrator, and Rule of Faith - Outline

I. Jesus Christ is the head of each church. Read: Col 1:18, Eph 1:22-23

- A. Each church is a sovereignty, recognizing no king or ruler but Christ.
 - 1. All New Testament churches maintain/sustain the same relationship to Christ.
 - 2. As it is the duty of the human body to obey every impulse of the mind, so it is in the church's relationship to Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
- B. The New Testament church was Christ-centered.
 - 1. Christians acknowledge allegiance only to God and Christ. Acts 5:29-32
 - 2. Christ ALONE was the head of the church. Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23
 - 3. Christ alone was their advocate with God. 1John 2:1
 - 4. Christ alone was their mediator. 1 Tim 2:5
 - 5. Christ alone was their High Priest – Intercessor. Hebrews 7:25
 - 6. Christ alone was their only church-foundation. 1 Corinthians 3:11

II. The Holy Spirit is the Administrator or Manager of each church

- A. Each church settles all matters under the direction of the Holy Spirit without interference from other churches.
- B. The New Testament plainly teaches the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit directs. Romans 8:14
 - 2. He calls to special service. Acts 13:2-4
 - 3. He guides in service. Acts 8:27-29
 - 4. He equips for service:
 - a. He illuminates. 1 Corinthians 2:12-14
 - b. He instructs. John 16:13-14
 - c. He impowers. 1 Thessalonians 1:5

III. The Word of God, the Bible, is the only rule of faith in the New Testament.

- A. The New Testament church believes in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and life. Read 2 Tim 3:16-17
- B. Many symbols are used to illustrate the power and value of the Word of God:
1. The revealing power of the Word is illustrated by the symbol of the mirror. James 1:23-25
 2. The generative power of the Word is illustrated by the symbol of the seed. James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23
 3. The cleansing, purifying power of the Word is illustrated by the symbol of the laver and water. Eph 5:25-27; John 15:3; Psalms 119:5
 4. The illuminating and guiding power of the Word is illustrated by the symbol of the lamp and light. Psalm 119:105
 5. The Power of the Word to equip man for the work and welfare of life is illustrated by the symbols of weapons and implements – the sword, fire, and hammer. Jerimiah 23-29
 6. The enriching and adorning power of the Word is illustrated by the symbols of gold and fine apparel. Psalm 19:10; 1 Peter 3:3-5
 7. The nourishing, sustaining, and satisfying power of the Word is illustrated by the symbols of milk, meat, bread, and honey. 1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4; 1 Corinthians 3:1-21; Job 23:12; John 6:35; John 6:51; Hebrews 5:12-14; Psalm 19:10

Questions:

1. What relationship does Christ have with the Church?
2. What relationship does the Holy Spirit have with the Church?
3. What is the rule of faith of each church?
4. Name some symbols that illustrate the power and value of the Word of God.
5. Name some of the works of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion: What are some of the ways that a church could deny Christ as their head?

One of Mark Heinen's favorite verses:

Ecclesiastes 12

¹³Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Lesson 6 - The Head, Administrator, and Rule of Faith

I. Jesus Christ is the head of each church. Read:

Col 1:18 (The Supremacy of Christ) ¹⁵Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: ¹⁶for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷and he is before all things, and by him all things consist. ¹⁸And 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.

Eph 1:22-23 (The Gospel of Your Salvation) ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. ⁷In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; ⁸wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; ⁹having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: ¹⁰that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: ¹¹in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: ¹²that we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. ¹³In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. ¹⁵Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, ¹⁶cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what

*is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, ²⁰which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: ²²and hath put all things under his feet, **and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,** ²³which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

A. Each church is a sovereignty, recognizing no king or ruler but Christ. (Why is this important to remember? – England and contemporary USA)

1. All New Testament churches maintain / sustain the same relationship to Christ.
2. As it is the duty of the human body to obey every impulse of the mind, so it is in the church's relationship to Christ.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 ¹²*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. ¹³For by **one Spirit are we all baptized into one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; **and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.***

B. The New Testament church was **Christ-centered**.

1. Christians acknowledge allegiance only to God and Christ. Read Acts 5:29-32 ²⁹*Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.*
2. Christ ALONE was the head of the church.
 - a. Read Colossians 1:18 (from Section I introduction above)
 - b. Read Ephesians 1:22-23 (from Section I introduction above)

3. Christ alone was their advocate with God. Read 1 John 2:1-2 *¹My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ²and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*
4. Christ alone was their mediator. Read 1 Tim 2:5-6 *⁵For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**; ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*
5. Christ alone was their High Priest – Intercessor. Read Hebrews 7:25 *²⁵Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make **intercession** for them.*
6. Christ alone was their only church-foundation. Read 1 Corinthians 3:11 *¹¹For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

II. The Holy Spirit is the Administrator or Manager of each church

- A. Each church settles all matters under the direction of the Holy Spirit without interference from other churches.
- B. The New Testament plainly teaches the work of the Holy Spirit.
 1. **The Holy Spirit directs.** Read Romans 8:14 (**We are the Sons of God**) *¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; **but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.** ¹⁶**The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:** ¹⁷and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

2. **The Holy Spirit calls to special service.** Read Acts 13:1-4 *¹Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.** ³And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. ⁴So they, being sent forth by the **Holy Ghost**, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.*
3. **The Holy Spirit guides in service.** Read Acts 8:26-29 (**Philip and the Ethiopian**). *²⁶And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. ²⁷And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, ²⁸was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias [Esaias and Isaiah are two ways of expressing the same name] the prophet. ²⁹**Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.***
4. **He equips for service:**
- a. He illuminates. Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-14 *¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴**But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.***

- b. He instructs. Read John 16:13-14 ***¹³Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. ¹⁴He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. ¹⁵All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. ¹⁶A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.***
- c. He impowers. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5 ***⁵For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.***

III. The Word of God, the Bible, is the only rule of faith in the New Testament.

- A. The New Testament church believes in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as **verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings** and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and life. Read:
 2 Tim 3:16-17 ***¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷that the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly** furnished unto all good works.***
- B. Many symbols are used to illustrate **the power and value of the Word of God:**
1. The revealing power of the Word is illustrated by the symbol of the mirror. Read James 1:23-25 ***²³For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. ²⁵But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein,***

he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

2. The generative power of the Word is illustrated by the symbol of the seed.
 - a. James 1:18 ¹⁸*Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*
 - b. 1 Peter 1:22-23 ²²*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: ²³being born again, **not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.***
3. The cleansing, purifying power of the Word is illustrated by the symbol of the laver and water. Read:
 - a. Eph 5:25-27 ²⁵*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*
 - b. John 15:3 ³*Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*
 - c. Psalm 119:9-10
⁹*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?*
By taking heed thereto according to thy word.

¹⁰With my whole heart have I sought thee:

O let me not wander from thy commandments.

4. The illuminating and guiding power of the Word is illustrated by the symbol of the lamp and light. Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,

And a light unto my path.

5. The Power of the Word to equip man for the work and welfare of life is illustrated by the symbols of weapons and implements – the sword, fire, and hammer.

Jerimiah 23-29 ²⁹Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

6. The enriching and adorning power of the Word is illustrated by the symbols of gold and fine apparel.

- a. Psalm 19:9-11

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever:

The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

***¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold:
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.***

¹¹Moreover by them is thy servant warned:

And in keeping of them there is great reward.

- b. 1 Peter 3:3-5 *³Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; ⁴but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. ⁵For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:*

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7. The nourishing, sustaining, and satisfying power of the Word is illustrated by the symbols of milk, meat, bread, and honey.
- a. 1 Peter 2:2 ²*as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*
 - b. Matthew 4:4 ⁴*But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*
 - c. 1 Corinthians 3:1-2 ¹*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. ²I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.*
 - d. Job 23:12 ¹²*Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.*
 - e. John 6:35 ³⁵*And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.***
 - f. John 6:51 ⁵¹***I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.***
 - g. Hebrews 5:12-14 ¹²*For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

h. Psalm 19:10

*¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold:
 Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

Summary: Biblical symbols used to illustrate **the power and value of the Word of God:**

1. The revealing power of the Word is illustrated by the symbol of the mirror. James 1:23-25
2. The generative power of the Word is illustrated by the symbol of the seed. James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23
3. The cleansing, purifying power of the Word is illustrated by the symbol of the laver and water. Eph 5:25-27; John 15:3; Psalms 119:5
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Questions:

1. What relationship does Christ have with the Church?
2. What relationship does the Holy Spirit have with the Church?
3. What is the rule of faith of each church?
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5. Name some of the works of the Holy Spirit.

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