

CHRIST, THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 1:19b-23

INTRODUCTION

- A. Leadership.
 - 1. Story of a group of boys rushing through a convenient store. A few moments after they left another boy, slightly older came into the store breathless. “Did you see a group of boys come this way?” “Yes, but why?” “I’m their leader!”
 - 2. Human leadership in question:
 - a. Frail and inadequate.
 - b. Brings disappointment.
 - c. People are people.
 - d. Depending on a broken compass?
- B. Accuracy of the church today?
 - 1. Leadership role in religious world becoming suspect.
 - 2. Is there a church that guarantees infallibility?
 - 3. Yes, based on Christ, the head of the church, Ephesians 5:23.

I. HE IS THE HEAD IN AUTHORITY.

- A. Our Lord Leading by His Law.
 - 1. Greatest leader of all time?
 - a. Washington, Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great.
 - b. Matthew 28:18, “*All authority ...*”
 - 2. After His resurrection and ascension.
 - a. Ephesians 1:21 – far above all rule, authority, power, dominion...
 - b. Ephesians 1:22-23 – subjection under His feet.
 - 3. He is also head of the Body [*the church*], Colossians 1:18-19.
 - 4. God speaking through His Son, Hebrews 1:1-2.
 - a. Not only a man with power, but...
 - b. Also, in words with authority.
 - 5. Highly exalted [**Lord!**], Philippians 2:9-11.
 - 6. Will deliver kingdom to God, 1 Corinthians 15:23-24.
- B. The Best Government.
 - 1. It has been said by someone, “*The best government in the world is a dictatorship, if the dictator is perfect!*”
 - 2. No comfort with today’s governments.
 - a. I.e., Castro, Kim Jong-un, Putin.
 - 3. Dictator of the Church – Jesus.
 - a. The church is not a democracy, even though we try!
 - b. Jesus – perfect in knowledge, wisdom, love and grace.
 - c. We are in subjection to His authority and leadership.
 - d. It cannot be “my way” and acknowledge Jesus as Lord.

II. HE IS THE HEAD IN EXAMPLE.

- A. Our Perfect Pattern in Obedience.
 - 1. Christ committed no sin, 1 Peter 2:21-23.

- a. Never needed to apologize.
 - b. Never had to retract a misspoken word.
 - c. Never knew a sinful thought.
- 2. Perfect in character.
 - a. 1 John 2:5b-6
 - b. 1 Corinthians 11:1, *“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”*
- 3. He became our perfect Savior [*learning obedience*], Hebrews 5:8-9.
- B. We Become What We Behold.
 - 1. A little child mimics his parents – *“he is just like his Dad.”*
 - 2. Hebrews 12:2
 - 3. 2 Corinthians 3:18

III. HE IS THE HEAD IN LOVE.

- A. He Leads and Commands with Love.
 - 1. Love one another, John 13:34-35.
 - 2. This is My commandment, John 15:12.
- B. Motivates Us to Love.
 - 1. To Love Him, 1 John 4:19.
 - 2. To love each other, 1 John 3:16.
 - 3. To do His will, John 14:15.
- C. Example of Love.
 - 1. Washing the apostle’s feet, John 13:3.
 - a. Knowing His authority, position, and future, Jn. 13:13, 14-15.
 - b. Took the role of a bond-servant, Phil. 2:7.
 - 2. He leads with His love, 1 John 4:7-8.

CLOSING

- A. He is the head in authority, example, love.
 - 1. He leads through His Lordship.
 - 2. He leads through a perfect life and compelling love.
- B. The Church:
 - 1. Founded by Christ.
 - 2. Led by Christ.
 - 3. Wears Christ’s name.
 - 4. Ephesians 5:27, ...and He died, *“...so that He might...”*
- C. Are you the church led by Christ?
 - 1. Under His authority – in all things?
 - 2. Obedient to Him as He was to God?