

Jesus Christ the Head

By Jeff Rath November 2015

Colossians 1:18

And he (Jesus Christ) 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.

What does it mean when it says that Jesus Christ is the head of the church? In modern times, we understand that the head houses the brain and that the brain is where the mind is. It is where thoughts are, it controls the body. So does Jesus (the head) control the church (body of Christ) the way our brain controls our body? Do we have to wait for orders from Jesus before we take action? Our head gives orders to our body; so does Jesus Christ give orders to the body of Christ?

Did People in Biblical Times Understand How The Brain Works?

What was the understanding of the physical body in Biblical times? Around 200 AD a prominent Greek physician and philosopher, Galen of Pergamon in the Roman Empire was the first in recorded history to identify the brain as the organ of the mind. Before that ancient man believed that the heart was where the mind was contained. That is why even today we will still say “memorizing by heart.” The entire Bible was written before 200 AD so there is no way that when the Bible says that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church that this means, in any way at all, that Jesus Christ is giving orders to the Church. Pretty much everything we understand today about neuro-science was discovered after 1600 AD. Some of the ancient Greeks even believed the brain was an organ whose function was to cool the blood. We must interpret scripture from the point of view of the people and culture it was written to.

Proverbs 23:7a

For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he:

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Mark 11:23

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

In the Bible it says that as a man thinks in his heart so is he. The people of that time did not understand human physiology the way we do today. They believed that thoughts were in the heart and not the brain. So If God wanted to communicate that Jesus Christ was the controlling mind of the body of Christ who gave out orders to the other

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parts of the body, then scripture would designate Jesus Christ as the heart and not the head. God knows more about the human body than we ever will, and yet God says in the Bible “thinketh in his heart.” Why is that? Well it is simple God works with us where we are. God does not use the bible to teach us neuro-science, or other sciences. So it may appear that God will make statements that are not scientifically accurate, but remember God is gentle. He works within a culture, and where we are at in life, and history.

What Is The Biblical Meaning Of The Head

So if the people of the Bible did not understand that the head / brain is the organ that housed the thoughts and mind. Then what did they think about the head? They did not know the head or brain was where consciousness exists and thought resided. The answer is simple. The term “head”, to them, meant first in order, first in rank, the beginning of a series, or what was on top. Jesus is the “head” because he is the first son of God.

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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.

Jesus Christ was the first son of God. He was the beginning of a new administration in the Bible. Jesus Christ is the firstborn among many brothers. No matter how many millions of people become sons of God, Jesus will always be the first.

Romans 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the **firstborn** among many brethren.

1 Corinthians 15:20

But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the **firstfruits** of them that slept.

1 Corinthians 15:21

For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:22

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:23

But every man in his own order: Christ the **firstfruits**; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Jesus Christ is the first son of God. As a son of God, he had a direct connection with God. Being the first, he blazed a trail that we can follow. We also have the same spiritual power that Jesus Christ had when he walked the earth; we also have a direct connection with the God the Father.

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John 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

We follow the example that Jesus Christ set for us. We are to do the works that he did and greater works. We could never do that without Jesus Christ doing it first.

John 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;

John 14:17

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:26

But the **Comforter**, *which is* the Holy Ghost, (Holy Spirit) whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26

But when the **Comforter** is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 15:27

And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:7

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the **Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

The Comforter is the gift of holy spirit we received when we were born again and became sons of God. We received the same measure of holy spirit that Jesus Christ had when he walked the earth. Jesus Christ was the first one to have the full measure, and therefore Jesus Christ is the head.