

evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 5:22-24 ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

If Christ is truly the head of the church and the head of our church, then we must seek to please Him and do His will in every area of the church. This means in our relationships to each other, to our leaders, to those outside the church, we must act biblically. Our goals and purposes must be those which will promote and glorify Christ.

2. Existence

“who is the beginning,”

Christ is first in the sense that He existed first. In eternity past there was none before Christ.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Christ preexists everything else. There was none before Him and therefore there is none who inherently deserve a position before Him.

3. The Resurrection

“the firstborn from the dead,”

- Christ was the first to be raised from the dead. All of us who have trusted Christ will follow Him.

1 Corinthians 15:12-24 ¹² Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁴ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. ¹⁵ Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up -- if in fact the dead do not rise. ¹⁶ For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. ²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as

in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. ²⁴ Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

- His resurrection from the dead gives us the ability to be conformed to the image of Christ.

Romans 8:28-29 ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- In Revelation, we see that Christ is the firstborn from the dead, and that just as He rules over the kings of the earth, will make us kings and priests to His God and Father.

Revelation 1:4-6 ⁴ John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Because Christ is the firstborn from the dead, we share in all that His death and resurrection have accomplished.

4. All things

“that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

Preeminence - πρωτεύω, proteuō - have first place, be above all else. It is the verbal form of *protos* - “first, best.” This word occurs only in this passage.

This is all things, not just some. What does it mean to have first place?

(A little bit of time at the beginning of the day)

- How much of your time is given to Jesus? If you measured the time spent on everything you do, where would the time given to Jesus rank? (1st, 4th, 10th, 26th)
- How often during the day do your thoughts turn to Jesus? How much do you think about yourself?
- Does Jesus have first place in all thing which you do? Do you focus on pleasing Jesus as you work? As you play? As you study? As you relax? Does Jesus have first place within the things you do?
- How does acknowledging that Jesus is first in all think affect the way you live? (Computer time, family time, your service to others, your giving).

Is Christ preeminent in your life?