

# CHRIST, HUSBANDS, WIVES, & CHILDREN

THE MOST AVOIDED SUBJECT FOR FEAR OF OFFENSE

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The following series of four messages is to those who are born of the Spirit; to those who are indwelt by the Spirit; to those who are led by the Spirit; and to those who are sealed by the Spirit until the day of redemption. Let the Spirit of the living God reveal to you, "as unto babes" (MATT. 11:25 & LUKE 10:21), the **TRUTH** of God's word.

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 **pre-eminence** [FIRST IN RANK]" (COL. 1:18). Within the church, God has established an "order" of submission with His Son as the **HEAD**. Jesus **IS** the decision-maker of the church, through the direction of the Spirit.

The word "church" means a calling out, **not** a "building." All who are born of the Spirit of God are known as "**THE CALLED according to his purpose**" (ROMANS 8:28).

The "called" are also "...members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones" (EPHES. 5:30) and by God's Spirit "...have been baptized into Christ" (GALATIANS 3:27).



So how did "buildings" get to be called "churches?" Paul warned the believers in Thessalonica, "**For the mystery of iniquity doth already work**" (2 THES. 2:7), and in every society, some form of distortion of truth is fully established. Satan has always changed "...the truth of God into a lie" (ROMANS 1:25):

He "...abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a LIE, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (JOHN 8:44).

There is only **ONE** way to become a member of the body of Jesus Christ, his church, and it's "not by works of righteousness which we have done" (TITUS 3:5), but

He that **believeth ON** the Son of God **HATH** the witness **IN HIMSELF**. This "witness" is the Holy Spirit who dwells in every true Christian. "**he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son**" (1 JOHN 5:10).

Jesus Christ has only **ONE** church, and it started on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). As God demonstrated His love through the "sacrifice" of His only Son, Jesus also demonstrated his love through the "sacrifice of himself." Therefore, he said of **HIS** church: "**By this shall ALL MEN KNOW that ye are my disciples, IF YE HAVE LOVE one to another**" (JOHN 13:35), that is, "sacrificial" love.

Believers are commanded by our Lord Jesus to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, "...with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to KEEP THE UNITY of the Spirit in the BOND of peace" (EPHES. 4:1-3).

There is **no unity** among "religion" today, but when antichrist comes, "**UNITY**" will be his **first** agenda.

But remember, God "...hath put all things under [Jesus] feet, and gave him to be the HEAD over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (EPHES. 1:22-23).

Churches of all denominations have those who exercise authority over all, but in the invisible Church of God, Jesus said, "... **it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant**" (MATTHEW 20:25-27).

The church is **subject** unto Christ alone because he loved the church and gave himself for the church, "...that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that 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" (EPHES. 5:26-27).

Jesus said, "**All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers**" (JOHN 10:8), and yet..."I am the **vine**, ye are the **branches**: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without me [THE HEAD] ye can do nothing**" (JOHN 15:5).

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