

Church Leadership: Christ's Relationship to the Church

1. Definition: English word church comes from German Kirche or Scottish Kirk which come from the Greek kyriakon- belonging to the Lord
In scripture the Greek word ekklesia is used - assembly, congregation, gathering of people
 - a. Non-technical meaning in the New Testament
Acts 7:38, Acts 19:32, 41

 - b. Technical meaning in the New Testament
Acts 20:28, 1 Thessalonians 1:1, Matthew 16:18

 - c. The Universal Church
Ephesians 5:25

 - c. The Local Church
Acts 20:28, 1 Corinthians 16:19

2. Membership
1Corinthians 12:13

1 Corinthians 12:27

John 1:12-13

Acts 2:41, 47

3. Birth of the Church Acts 2:1-4, 1 Cor. 12:13

4. The Church is a product of the Lord Jesus- He built it.

Matthew 16:18 – I will build My Church

1. First mention of the Church in scripture
2. The Church is the work of Christ
3. “will” – future tense, at this time the Church was future
4. “Will build”-not rebuilt-the Church was a new entity
5. The Church belongs to Christ- “My Church”

6. Christ is the Head of all things

Head - kephalē; gen. kephall ἡ fem. noun. The head, top, that which is uppermost in relation to something. Metaphorically of things, the head, top, summit, e.g., the head of the corner, meaning the chief stone of the corner, the cornerstone (Mat 21:42; Mar 12:10; Luk 20:17; Act 4:11; 1Pe 2:7,

Eph 1:19-23

Col 2:10

Christ is the pre-eminent ruler over all things.

Pre-eminent - having paramount rank, dignity, or importance : outstanding, supreme

7. Christ is the Head of the Church

Metaphorically of persons, i.e., the head, chief, one to whom others are subordinate, e.g., the husband in relation to his wife ([1Co 11:3](#); [Eph 5:23](#)) insofar as they are one body ([Mat 19:6](#); [Mar 10:8](#)), and one body can have only one head to direct it; of Christ in relation to His Church which is His body, and its members are His members (cf. [1Co 12:13](#); [1Co 12:27](#); [Eph 1:22](#); [Eph 4:15](#); [Eph 5:23](#); [Col 1:18](#); [Col 2:10](#), [Col 2:19](#)); of God in relation to Christ ([1Co 11:3](#)), God the Father is designated as the head of Christ. Generally, of a leader or ruler

Ephesians 5:23-30

v. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

Christ is the head of the church –Provides leadership, direction guides, protects, cares, loves

He is the head because he gave Himself for her. He is the savior of the body. Christ rules over the body and has the right to direct and control it because he gave Himself for it.

And they *sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (Rev 5:9)

v.24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

Church is subject to Christ. Subject- be under obedience, to obey, be subordinate to, submit self unto. The Church is subject or under obedience to Christ.

v. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

just as Christ loved the church. The word "love" (*agapaō*) means seeking the highest good for another person (cf. [Eph 2:4](#)). This is an unselfish love as seen in Christ's sacrificial death in which He gave Himself up for the church.

[Eph 5:2](#); [Joh 10:11](#), [Joh 10:15](#), [Joh 10:17-18](#); [Gal 1:4](#); [Eph 5:25](#); [Heb 9:1](#)

Christ loved the church so much that He gave Himself as an offering for her. But Christ died on the cross before the church was started. He knew what he was starting. The Church starts with Christ death and resurrection.

v.26 -27 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

v. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

v.29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,

v.30 because we are members of His body.

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to *grow up* in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Col 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

Col 2:18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.