

Colossians 1:18– Who Christ Is ii.

I. Head of the Church.

The English word *church* is derived from the Greek word: *Kupiakon* – “**belonging to the Lord**.” In the OT, “Assembly”, in the NT the word “church” refers Christians at any level, from a very small group meeting in a private home all the way to the group of all true believers on earth or in heaven.

Matthew 16:17-18 - *Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

1Corinthians 12:12-13 - *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into[fn] one Spirit.*

“He is the head of the body the church: not only a head of government and direction, as the king is the head of the state and has right to prescribe laws, but a head of vital influence, as the head in the natural body: for all grace and strength are derived from him: and the church is his body,” Matthew Henry.

i.Children, under His care...

John 1:12 - *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*

ii.Branches, spreading Him...

John 15:5 - *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*

iii.Ambassadors, representing Him...

2 Corinthians 5:20 - *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

iv.Flock, following Him...

1Peter 5:2 - *Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly,[fn] not for dishonest gain but eagerly...*

v.Bride, faithful to Him

Revelation 21:9 - *Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the **bride**, the Lamb's wife.”*

We're His Temple/House, Servants, Co-laborers, witnesses, messengers...

vi. We're created or built for Him; to love Him and others.

Mark 12:29-31 - *Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.' And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. "And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

vii. Evangelism towards non-believers...

Matthew 28:19-20 - *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen*

II. The firstborn from the dead...

"Not that he was the first whoever rose from the dead, but the first and only one who rose by his own power, and was *declared to be the Son of God, and Lord of all things*. And he is the head of the resurrection, and has given us an example and evidence of our resurrection from the dead. M. Henry.

1 Corinthians 15:20 - *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

III. He is pre-eminent.

Psalms 93:1 - *The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved.*

1 Peter 3:15 - *But **sanctify** the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*

Revelation 1:4-6 - *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, 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, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen*