

If we are to realize anything about God, we must realize He is a God of purpose. There is nothing about Him that is accidental, casual or undefined. He is totally purposeful; His will is the central issue in the Word of God, and nothing will deter Him from ultimately accomplishing it. From the first word to the last word of the holy Word, this is evident. While there are many important instructions and revelations in the Bible, none is so crucial as that regarding Christ and the church, the Head and the Body. All other issues, doctrines, works of God and functions of the universe are for this. To truly “know the Body”, we must intimately know Christ, the Head.

### **Christ, His life and nature**

(Matt. 1:21, 23; Heb. 2:14; 4:15; John 1:1, 4, 14; 5:19; 15:4)

The entire Bible is about Christ. In the gospels we realize He is both the Son of God and the Son of Man. As the Son of God, He brought God into humanity. As the Son of Man, he brought humanity into God. When Jesus lived and walked on this earth, He defined God fully. When the downcast watched Him live, they were melted in their hearts for they saw that God not only loves, but that He is understanding, approachable and the truest of friends. When people really saw Jesus, they realized who God is and what He is like. They also saw a man living by the Father’s life, unlike the first Adam in Genesis. This Life is now for producing His Body.

### **Christ, His work and purpose**

(Eph. 3:8-11; Acts 20:28a; I Cor. 3:22-23; 15:20-28; Rom. 5:17-19)

The work of Christ was to accomplish God’s will. Negatively, through the work of the cross, Jesus accomplished redemption to make a way for the Sin in a believer to be replaced by a Life that is in resurrection. Positively, through the cross, Jesus birthed the seed of another race of humanity, called the church. Thus a “lost” person may believe in Christ, receive his redemption and thereby be birthed into another kingdom, the church which is the body of Christ.

Although redemption is a pivotal matter, it is not God’s complete purpose. Redemption means “to regain what was owned before by paying a price for it”. To consider this the ultimate intention of God would be akin to saying one’s purpose in life is to be saved from bankruptcy. Yes, a debtor needs to be freed from debt, but the purpose of such rescue is for a new beginning. As Adam’s cooperation with the devil ruined man for God’s purpose, so the work of Christ accomplished a marvelous reversal of that failure so that His purpose might be fully realized.

### **Christ, His place and function**

(Eph. 1:22-23; 4:3-16; Col. 1:18; 2:19; II Cor. 3:6b, 16-18; Matt. 6:10-13)

Underneath the marvelous details and vision in the Bible is the thought that Jesus the Christ is God’s gift to the church as her Head, and that in this place He makes each member a gift to His Body. By the growth and practice of His life, the church becomes the means by which His kingdom will fill the earth. Thereby, all the damage of the enemy begun in Genesis will be fully reversed and God’s will fully accomplished “on the earth, just as it is in heaven”.

### **Substitutes for the headship of Christ**

(Romans 5-8; I John 2:15-17; Revelation 2-3; 21-22)

Although Christ has done everything needed for God’s eternal intention to be completed, the entire fallen world opposes the receiving and application of His loving and powerful Life. He is opposed by Sin, sins, flesh, self, Satan, love of the world, and religion. These expressions have frustrated God’s purpose, but ultimately will never defeat it. Revelation 2-3 portrays this historical process since His ascension whereby His headship was confirmed, and chapters 21-22 are the profound viewing of the completed headship of Christ and His eternal kingdom on earth.

1. To you, what does Christ as the Head of His Body mean? Is your understanding doctrinal only? Have you experienced Christ as your Head today? this week? in your thought life? in your tongue? in your care for family, unbelievers and other members of His Body?

2. If Christ is complete divinity and perfect humanity in resurrection, what does a believer receive when he is born again? Is the Spirit of Christ in the spirit of a man different than the Spirit received by the believers in John 20:22 and poured out upon them in Acts 2?

**From references on Page 3:**

**Christ, His life and nature**

(Matt. 1:21, 23; Heb. 2:14; 4:15; John 1:1, 4, 14; 5:19; 15:4)

3. Is Jesus human and/or divine, and what does that have to do with His headship today?

**Christ, His work and purpose**

(Eph. 3:8-11; Acts 20:28a; I Cor. 3:22-23; 15:20-28; Rom. 5:17-19)

4. In addition to becoming Sin on the cross to solve things negatively, what was the result of His sufferings positively?

**Christ, His place and function**

(Eph. 1:22-23; 4:3-16; Col. 1:18; 2:19; II Cor. 3:6b, 16-18; Matt. 6:10-13)

5. In reference to the church, who is Christ, and what is the purpose of His being Head?

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(Romans 5-8; I John 2:15-17; Revelation 2-3; 21-22)

6. What effect on the Lord's purpose takes place when we substitute His headship in our daily lives? in the church's standing and practice?

**Notes:**

