

# RAISED TO BE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

## Part 22 Ephesians Chapter One

- *When considering this Easter message, I realised we have been speaking about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ for the past 3 weeks ...*
- *We have spoken about Him being **raised as a New Human** and becoming the first Heavenly Man*
- *We shared about Him being **raised to the most Privileged Position** as the first Human to sit at the right hand of The Father*
- *Last week we spoke about Jesus being **raised up to the most Powerful Position** in all eternity, above all demonic forces*

So, this Easter Sunday, as we continue exploring these final verses in Ephesians chapter one, we read about yet another aspect of The Resurrection. We read about -

### JESUS BEING RAISED TO BE HEAD OF THE CHURCH – HIS BODY!

Ephesians 1:22-23 **SLIDE**

*[God raised Jesus from The Dead] And He put all things under His feet, and **gave Him** to be head over all things **to the church**,<sup>23</sup> which is **His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

Notice this tells us JESUS CHRIST WAS **GIVEN To The Church.**

THIS IS EVEN MORE AMAZING GRACE – ASTOUNDING GRACE ...

NOT ONLY DID THE FATHER **GIVE US** HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON FOR OUR SALVATION (John 3:16)

But here we read ...

AFTER THE RESURRECTION, GOD THE FATHER **GAVE HIM AGAIN TO US WHO ARE** THE CHURCH.

**JESUS WAS TWICE GIVEN FOR US & TO US**

THIS IS GRACE UPON GRACE ...

WE DON'T REALLY CONSIDER THIS POINT ABOUT THE RESURRECTION & INDEED GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE ...

BUT THE COMPLETE SCENARIO GOES ... **SLIDE** -

- CHRIST JESUS WAS RAISED from the dead
- CHRIST JESUS WAS SEATED at the right hand of the Father
- CHRIST JESUS WAS GIVEN as Head to The Church, His Body

He was raised up to be The Head of The church which is His Body.

EPHESIANS 1:22-23 **SLIDE**

*[God raised Jesus from The Dead] And He put all things under His feet, and **gave Him** to be head over all things **to the church**,<sup>23</sup> which is **His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

## THE CHURCH WAS ALWAYS A PART OF CHRIST'S PURPOSE

Jesus first mentioned The Church in Matthew 16:18 (... *I will build My Church* ...) so He already had this in mind ...

Ephesians tells us the reason Jesus gave His life was because **He loved The Church and Gave His life for her.**

Ephesians 5:25 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

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

NB: Past tense 'LOVED' & 'GAVE' - this is speaking of His sacrifice on The Cross which He accomplished 'FOR THE CHURCH'.

SO GOD THE FATHER & JESUS ALWAYS HAD THIS GREAT ENTITY IN MIND AND WORKED TOWARD THIS GREAT APPOINTMENT ... THAT CHRIST JESUS WOULD BE **THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH** ... THAT IS HIS BODY.

*The exultation of Christ is not merely an honour conferred on him, but has also a definite practical purpose; **it is for the benefit of the Church.*** (Pulpit Commentary)

On Earth Jesus was given for us for our sin.

In Heaven Jesus is given to us for our Glory. (See Ephesians 5:27)

SUCH IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS NEW ENTITY CALLED '**THE CHURCH**', THAT THE RESURRECTED JESUS CHRIST – THE MOST POWERFUL RULER IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, OVER ALL TIME & ETERNITY, **HAS BEEN GIVEN TO IT AS IT'S HEAD.**

The great purpose of God the Father continues with **the risen Christ now in his Exalted Appointment** -

He was raised ... to be the Head of the Church!

## **NOW WE BEGIN TO SEE HIS GLORIOUS CHURCH –**

In Ephesians 5:32 PAUL CALLS IT **A GREAT MYSTERY** -  
But now this mystery is revealed.

*Here we are standing at the threshold of the most wonderful revelation ...*

**BUT THIS CONCEPT GOES MUCH FURTHER THAN JESUS BEING THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH. WE ARE ALSO TOLD THAT THE CHURCH IS CALLED ‘HIS BODY’ AND THAT -**

### **JESUS IS THE HEAD OF HIS BODY**

Ephesians 1:22-23 **SLIDE**

*... He [The Father] put all things under His [Jesus'] feet, and gave Him to be head ... to the church,<sup>23</sup> which is His body ...*

Colossians 1:18 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and firstborn from among the dead, so that in all things He may have pre-eminence.*

**NB:** THIS CONCEPT OF JESUS BEING THE HEAD OF HIS BODY MEANS FAR MORE THAN JESUS BEING **THE SUPREME AUTHORITY** OF THE CHURCH (which of course He is) ...

**THIS IS TELLING US THAT JESUS IS ORGANICALLY CONNECTED TO US AS A HEAD IS CONNECTED TO A BODY.**

### **THIS IS AN ORGANIC TERM**

Jesus is attached to us, just as a head is attached to its body - 100% permanently.

His connection to us is an organic, living connection.

Just as the natural head is connected to a body by **living tissue** so are we spiritually connected to Him ... You cannot see any join ...

**SLIDE of Herman Munster**

*WE ARE JOINED TO CHRIST, united to Him.*

*Not in a mechanical manner.*

*Not in a loose manner.*

*But in an organic manner.*

*In a most intimate manner.*

*Dr Martin Lloyd Jones*

- **HERE WE ALSO SEE ANOTHER GREAT CONTRAST – BETWEEN CHRIST & ALL OTHER NAMES ... AND CHRIST & US – HIS BODY.**

**HE WAS RAISED FAR ABOVE ALL OTHER POWERS & AUTHORITIES TO BE DISCONNECTED FROM THEM.**

**HE IS SEPARATE & UNTOUCHABLE BY ALL OTHER THINGS.**

**HE IS RAISED FAR ABOVE AND GIVEN AS THE HEAD OF THE BODY TO BE CONNECTED TO US.**

**HE IS INSEPARABLE & ORGANICALLY JOINED TO HIS BODY.**

**UNTOUCHABLE TO ALL OTHER POWERS ...**

**INSEPARABLE FROM US HIS BODY – THE CHURCH ...**

- **AS HIS BODY WE ARE ORGANICALLY CONNECTED IN HIS LIFE**

**BECAUSE HE IS THE HEAD, HIS LIFE FLOWS INTO EVERY MEMBER OF THE BODY, JUST AS THE BLOOD FLOWS TO EACH CELL IN A NATURAL BODY & BRINGS OXYGEN & LIFE**

- **AS OUR HEAD, HE IS CONNECTED TO OUR EVERY FEELING**

***THROUGH NERVES & THE NERVOUS SYSTEM WHICH IS TRACED BACK TO THE BRAIN***

*In the nervous system, nerve cells send messages electrochemically: this means that chemicals cause an electrical impulse from one cell to another, electrical signals that pass between cells.*

**SO JUST LIKE A NATURAL BODY, THE HEAD FEELS EVERY FEELING THROUGH ITS COMPLEX NERVOUS SYSTEM ... AND JESUS OUR HEAD FEELS EVERY FEELING EVERY MEMBER OF HIS BODY FEELS ...**

**IT IS THE SAME LIFE IN EVERY PART OF THE BODY ...**

**INTER-RELATED IN THIS ORGANIC UNITY.**

➤ **AS MEMBERS OF HIS BODY HE CONNECTS US TO ONE ANOTHER**

*THE BODY IS NOT A GATHERING OF LOSE PARTS WHICH ARE SOMEHOW JUST ATTACHED TO ONE ANOTHER ... ALL THE PARTS ARE ONE ... IN AN ESSENTIAL UNITY.*

*Dr Martin Lloyd Jones*

**THERE IS A LIVING CONNECTION OF ONE MEMBER TO ANOTHER.**

**WE ARE NOT JUST MECHANICALLY ATTACHED TO ONE ANOTHER**

- **WE ALSO HAVE A SPECIFIC PLACE DESIGNATED BY THE HEAD ... WHERE WE ORGANICALLY CONNECT WITH OTHER MEMBERS AROUND US ... AND WHERE LIFE & ENERGY FLOW.**

**Ephesians 4:16** Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*From Him [Jesus] the whole body, fitted and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love through the work of each individual part.*

**1 Corinthians 12:27** Berean Study Bible

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it.*

**1 Corinthians 12:13** Berean Literal Bible

*For also in one Spirit we all were baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink one Spirit.*

**AS MEMBERS OF THIS SPIRITUAL BODY ... WE CANNOT BE INDEPENDENT**

**WE NEED TO BE INTER-DEPENDENT ...**

**THERE ARE NO HEALTHY INDEPENDENT MEMBERS ...**

**In fact, an independent member cuts themselves off from The Life Flow of The Body which comes from The Head.**

**They become disconnected from the Head and become paralysed members. They wither and become unusable, inefficient and ineffective ...**

This is critical because they no longer experience the life flow of Christ's circulation flowing through His body.

**THEY BECOME LIKE A PARALYSED HAND ...**

In Matthew 12:10 Jesus healed a man with a withered - paralysed - hand ... This is a hand defective in blood circulation ... It has somehow been cut off from the main circulation of the body.

**A SEPARATE INDEPENDENT BELIEVER IS LIKE A LIMP LIMB. THE BLOOD SUPPLY HAS BEEN CUT OFF EVEN THOUGH THAT MEMBER IS STILL ATTACHED THEY BECOME NUMB ... LIMP & LIFELESS.**

**Colossians 2:19** Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

**He has lost connection to the head**, from whom the whole body, supported and knit together by its joints and ligaments, grows as God causes it to grow.

[John 15:4-5](#) KJV

*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.<sup>5</sup>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 ye can do nothing.*

**MEMBER SUPPORT**

**MEANWHILE THE HEAD ORGANISES THE OTHER MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE WITHERED ONE, THROUGH COMPASSION ... TO TRY & GET THE BLOOD FLOWING INTO IT AGAIN ... IT WILL NEVER BE CUT OFF ... EVEN IF IT REMAINS USELESS ...**

**ALSO ... THE WHOLE BODY STARTS TO FEEL ITS PAIN. IT AFFECTS THE WHOLE BODY.**

**THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU TO CONNECT**

**God has got a place for you to connect to The Body of Christ ... a place that is right for you, where other members surround you and link in with you and you to them ...**

**The members don't decide for themselves where they connect ...**

*You may want to be a mouth because you admire the great words of the mouth ... but you are actually a foot ...*

*But without the foot ... the mouth can't get to the place where it needs to speak ...*

Let God place you as a foot next to the ANKLE ...

**A PLACE WHERE YOU BELONG SLIDE**

**DON'T GIVE UP**

*Peter Gabriel & Kate Bush ...*

*Don't give up 'cause you have friends  
Don't give up ... You're not the only one  
Don't give up ... No reason to be ashamed  
Don't give up ... You still have us  
Don't give up now ... We're proud of who you are  
Don't give up ... 'Cause I believe there's a place  
There's a place where we belong*

**THE FULLNESS OF HIM THAT FILLS ALL IN ALL**

Ephesians 1:22-23 **SLIDE**

*[God raised Jesus from The Dead] And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, **[which is] the fullness of Him who fills all in all.***

THE BODY OF CHRIST IS WHERE WE FIND THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST JESUS  
OUR HEAD ...

HE FILLS THE WHOLE BODY WITH HIS PURE LIFE ...

AND WE FEAST UNTIL WE ARE FULL.

***THERE ARE MANY ARE STARVING CHRISTIAN'S*** ... BUT WHEN YOU FIND  
YOUR RIGHT PLACE & ACCEPT IT ... SETTLE INTO IT ... GIVE UP YOUR SELF-  
WILL & INDEPENDENCE ... YOU WILL BE SATISFIED WITH THE FULLNESS OF HIS  
HOUSE ...

Psalm 36:7-8 **SLIDE**

*How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.  
<sup>8</sup>They are abundantly **satisfied with the fullness of Your house**, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.*

## **SUPPLIMENTARY**

**THE BODY INCLUDES ISRAEL ... Ephesians 2:14-15**

### **WE DO NOT CONNECT OURSELVES ...**

***MANY PEOPLE HAVE TRIED AND GET AN ECUMENICAL ORGANISATION OF GRACE PEOPLE TOGETHER ...***

***WE START FACEBOOK PAGES WHERE ALL GRACE CHRISTIANS CAN GET TOGETHER & CONNECT ...***

***WE HAVE LONG TALKED ABOUT FORMING A 'GRACE ORGANISATION' WHERE MINISTERS CAN MEET & ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER ...***

***BUT IT'S NEVER HAPPENED ...***

**THAT'S BECAUSE, FRIENDS, THE MEMBERS OF THE BODY ARE ULTIMATELY CONNECTED BY THE HEAD ... THEY DON'T THINK FOR THEMSELVES ...**

***THE FINGERS DON'T GET TOGETHER & HAVE A DISCUSSION SAYING, I'D LIKE TO PROPOSE WE SPEND MORE TIME FELLOWSHIPING WITH THE OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY ... AND THEY ALL AGREE & GO OFF IN THEIR OWN POWER TO SPEND TIME WITH THE NOSE ... THEN THE MOUTH ... THEN THE EYES ...***

**Find God's place for you in the Body and be filled.**

**Sure, God speaks to individuals, but He speaks more profoundly through the Body, through the flow of life from one to the other through our Head, Christ Jesus.**