

We Worship God through His Word

“Jesus: In Charge of First Baptist”
Colossians 1:18

Keith Moore

If the Holy Spirit withdrew His presence from many local churches in America, they would never know the difference.

John 16:14a “He will glorify Me...”

The church of God apart from the person of Christ is a useless structure. However ornate it may be in its organization, however perfect in all its arrangements, however rich and increased with goods, if the church is not revealing the Person, lifting Him to the height where all men can see Him, then the church becomes an impertinence and a sham, a blasphemy and a fraud, and the sooner the world is rid of it, the better.” Dr. G. Campbell Morgan

Series Title:

What in the world is the Church?

The first core value is:
The centrality of Jesus Christ.

Message title for today:
Jesus: In charge of First Baptist

Colossians 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”

“He is the head of the body, the church...”

Ephesians 1:22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **1:23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

The ultimate mission of the church is to do what Jesus would do if He were here in His physical body.

Two implications of Jesus Christ
being the Head of the Church:

- No spiritual leader on earth is the Head of the Church

Acts 10:25 As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. **10:26** But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

Philippians 2:8b-9 “. . .He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him a name that is above every name.”

- Jesus should be consulted and sought on every major decision in the church.

Acts 1:24 Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen

You and I represent Jesus to the world.

The world's view of Jesus will depend
on their view of the church.

Dr. Phillip Yancey, Disappointment with God, “A perfect mind locked inside a spastic, uncontrolled body, and vocal chords that fail at every second syllable. The N. T. image of Christ took on a new meaning as I gained a sense of both the humiliation that Christ undergoes in His role as Head, and also, the exaltation that He allows us, the members of His body.”

“I like your Christ, but I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” Mahatma Gandhi

David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons in UnChristian, found that while Jesus loves flawed people—it is the perception of outsiders to the church that Christians do not.

Kinnaman and Lyons found these to be some of the perceptions outsiders had of the church (their list was longer):

- 87% Judgmental
- 85% Hypocritical
- 75% Too involved in politics
- 70% Insensitive to others
- 68% Boring
- 61% Confusing

“We really can’t see the difference
He has made.”

We need to surprise the skeptics with
authentic Christianity.

I wonder if our lack of being like Jesus
is keeping others from Him?

Remember putting your face above a headless frame painted to represent a muscle man, a clown, or even a bathing beauty? Many of us have had our pictures taken this way, and the photos are humorous because the head doesn't fit the body. If we could picture Christ as the head of our local body of believers, would we laugh at the misfit? Or would they stand in awe of a human body so closely related to a divine head?"

Dan Bernard, Leadership, Vol. 5, no. 1