

Colossians 1:18-29 - The Glorious Mystery

He is the Head of the Church

Col 1:18-29 NIV 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. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

The church is important to Jesus

- He chose of all organizations to be the head of the church
- Matt 16:18 - "I will build my church"
- Eph 5:27 - and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

There are *Vertical* Aspects to this

The head governs the physical body, Jesus directs the affairs of the church

- Is He first in my life, marriage, job, relationships etc?

There are *Horizontal* Aspects to this

We are members of one another

- Through **Spiritual Gifts** - we build each other up (1 Cor 12-14)
- We relate to others through **GODLY VIRTUES**
 - Eph 4:1-4 I...urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all ***humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,*** 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the ***bond of peace.*** 4 ***There is one body***

His is the head and my brothers and sisters are part of the body - *may I relate to them as if Christ were living through me*

Reconciliation - He Created All Things...He Reconciles All Things

Col 1:20-22 and through him **to reconcile to himself** all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by **making peace** through his **blood, shed on the cross**.²¹ And you, **who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds**, **22 he has now reconciled** in his body of flesh by his death, **in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him**

5 things about Reconciliation

1) **Reconciliation Initiated By Him ... “To Reconcile to Himself” -**

2) **Reconciliation is to Heal an Adversarial Relationship ... “By Making Peace”**

- **MY PAST --- Alienated** [*estranged - not participating*] and **hostile** [*an enemy - adversary*] in mind, **doing evil deeds** (I was His enemy)

3) **Reconciliation is accomplished by death ...“Through his blood shed on the cross” -**

- **MY PRESENT ---** He has now **reconciled** in his body of flesh by his death (I am His friend and Son)

4) **Reconciliation has a future purpose**

- ***In order to*** present you **holy** and **blameless** and **above reproach** before him

The Amazing Place Christ’s Reconciliation is Leading Us

- **Holy** - (an awful thing) sacred (physically pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially consecrated)
- **Blameless** = Same word used in 1 Pet 1:19 - Christ as a lamb without **blemish**
 - Eph 1:4...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and **blameless** before him.
 - Jud 1:24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you **blameless** before the presence of his glory with great joy
- **Above Reproach** = Unaccused
 - 1Co 1:8 who will sustain you to the end, **guiltless** in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Jesus as the head of the church is doing this work in us NOW**
 - Eph 5:27 ...so that he might **present** the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

5) **There is a condition to the ultimate goal of reconciliation - “IF YOU CONTINUE”**

Continuance

23 ***if indeed you continue*** in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Continue - to remain or persevere

Not Everyone Continues in the Faith

- 1Ti 1:19 NIV **holding on to faith** and a good conscience, which **some have rejected** and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.
- 1Ti 4:1 NIV The Spirit clearly says that in later times **some will abandon the faith** and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.
- 1Ti 6:10 NIV For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have **wandered from the faith** and pierced themselves with many griefs.
- 1Ti 6:20-21 NIV Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, (21) which some have professed and in so doing **have departed from the faith**. Grace be with you all.
- 2Ti 2:17-18 NIV Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, (18) **who have departed from the truth**. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and **they destroy the faith of some**.

Stable - to lay a foundation

- Stability through **obedience** to God's word Mat 7:25 - house **founded** on the rock
- Stability comes from growing in **Love** - Ephesians 3:17 rooted and **grounded** in love

Steadfast - immovable - a conviction of heart - a deep "KNOWING" something - so confidently that it impacts your decisions (think of Shadrach Meshach and Abednego)

- 1Co 15:58 ESV Therefore, my beloved brothers, be **steadfast**, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, **knowing** that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Not shifting FROM THE HOPE - not moved away - NOT stirred to a place elsewhere

- this is the only place in the bible this word is used

He introduced us to this HOPE at the beginning of the letter

- Col 1:5 NIV the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven
- Col 1:12...(qualified to share the inheritance)
- He was Pointing us to a future HOPE
 - praying we would have the knowledge of his will
 - praying we would have the power to ENDURE

We have a great **HOPE**

We have this great **Purpose of Reconciliation** - to present you holy, blameless and irreproachable

We have a **sincere warning** - IF YOU CONTINUE

How Can I make it? Where do I find the strength to be and do all that he intends?

A Great Mystery Revealed

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 ***the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.*** 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the ***riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***

God has chosen to MAKE KNOWN the riches of the glory of the mystery

- Col 1:27 NIV To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

This is why we proclaim CHRIST

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this **I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.**

- To present everyone fully mature in Christ...This is why I work so hard
- Why would we proclaim anything else? -
 - May CHRIST IN ME the Hope of Glory be understood by us all
- Paul himself is an example of Christ in Me "I toil - struggling with ALL HIS ENERGY that he powerfully works within me.

I Toil --- struggling with HIS ENERGY the HE POWERFULLY WORKS IN ME

- Exchange the word TOIL with the thing you struggle with
- I forgive --- with HIS ENERGY
- I love --- with HIS ENERGY
- I overcome sin --- with HIS ENERGY

He Reconciled Me

To Live Inside me

To Live HIS WAY - because I can't do it on my own

Gal 2:20 ESV I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.