



RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

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THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST—PART THREE

You may have noticed that every living human being on the face of the planet has at least one thing in common. They all have a head. Why is the head essential to human life? Well, we talk through our head. But that is not absolutely essential for our existence- there are millions of mute people. We hear through our head. But again that is not absolutely essential – there are millions of deaf people. We see through our head. But again, that is not absolutely essential. We smell through our head. But that is certainly not absolutely essential. All of those functions, speech, sight, smell, and hearing, depend on the head. But none of those functions are absolutely essential for a human being to live. But there is one function that the head provides which is absolutely essential for us to exist. Which one is it?

The brain. Inside our head is the control center for our whole body. Every response, every action, including the body's functions that go on without us thinking about them (breathing, walking etc) are controlled by our brain. In other words, our head governs our body. If the head is not functioning, the body cannot function. A body without a head ceases to live. The body **MUST BE GOVERNED BY THE HEAD**. Can you imagine a body governed by its stomach or its legs? What a disaster that would be! So then in our physical body, our head represents government. It represents authority. It represents control. It keeps our bodies alive and keeps them in order and enables them to do what they need to do.

Now let's look at a very interesting scripture. *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.* (Ephesians 5:23 KJV). Christ is the head of the church. Supposedly He governs the church. The church is not governed primarily by people. It is governed by Christ. We as individuals are part of the church, so our head individually is Christ. He is supposed to govern our lives. We are supposed to be subject to Him in everything. He, as the head, is supposed to govern everything about our lives, both as the church and as individuals.

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. (1 Corinthians 11:3 KJV) .Here we are again, looking at the Lordship of Christ. *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ* (Ephesians 4:15 KJV) *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence* (Colossians 1:18 KJV)

Where there is disorder in the church, it is because the body is not submitted to the head. ¹⁸*Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.* (Colossians 2:18-19 NKJV) Is there disorder in your personal life? You need to let Christ be Lord. You need to submit to the head. There will be no harmony if your life is governed by your own desires and not those of Jesus. That is like a body being governed by its stomach. As you submit to the headship of Christ you will find your life comes into order and you will live in peace and joy.

Let's look for a moment at how the Lordship of Christ is shown in our families, because the Bible lays down some very clear principles about how this should be.

²³*For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.*

²⁴*Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

(Ephesians 5:23-24 NKJV) The husband is the head of the family, just like Christ is the head of the church. That means that the authority in our families belongs to the husband. He reports directly to Christ. *But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.* (1 Corinthians 11:3 KJV). The wife reports to the husband. That is God's order.

There will be no harmony if your life is governed by your own desires and not those of Jesus.

Women, I know some of you think, “But if my husband is doing something that I don’t agree with, I should oppose him and not submit to him”. That is wrong. When you go against your husband’s wishes in an area, you are negating God’s order and despising authority. Your children, if they see you do this, will learn to disrespect authority. If you as a wife have been refusing your husband’s authority in an area, don’t be surprised if your children reject your authority. They learnt from you to disrespect authority. The Bible clearly says that wives should submit to their husbands in everything, just like the church is supposed to submit to Christ in everything. This makes sense, does it not, if the husband is the head. Imagine a physical body in which most of the time the body was governed by the head but now and again the stomach or the legs took control and did their own thing! Sometimes we do that as individuals when we decide that we know better than Christ in an area. The result- disorder and disaster. And sometimes wives do this when they refuse their husband’s authority in an area. If your husband is wrong, the Lord will correct him. By all means, you can and should respectfully express your opinion to your husband. But it is not your job to correct him, because you are not his head. Christ is his head. Your husband is your head. It is your husband’s job to love you and correct you and govern you just like Christ loves and corrects and governs the church. Where your husband fails, the Lord will correct him.

Jesus is our head, He nourishes and cherishes us, because we are His body. We have nothing to fear from submitting to His authority and Lordship in every area of our lives.

You women who do not have husbands, your head is directly Christ Jesus. *For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.* (Isaiah 54:5 NKJV). If you have no husband, Christ is your husband. You need to subject yourself to Christ in everything. He will love you and provide for you and govern you.

The Bible does not say that “Men” in general are the head of “Women” in general. In other words, many people believe that every man is the head of every woman. But what the Bible specifically says is that the husband is the head of his wife. *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.* (Ephesians 5:24 KJV) For example, in the Latino culture, many times pastors of churches give orders to married women, and even if the women’s husbands do not agree with what the pastor is requiring, these wives believe that in the first instance they must obey the pastor’s wishes rather than their husband’s wishes. For example, perhaps the pastor gives an order that everyone must attend a service in the church every day of the week. However, the Bible says that a wife should love her husband and this includes spending time with him. But the woman feels like she is in rebellion if she doesn’t obey the pastor. However, who is the head of the married woman? The pastor? Or her husband?

Does the Bible say that wives should only submit themselves to their husbands in everything if their husbands are Christian? No. In fact it says specifically that if the husband is not saved, the wife’s obedience may well lead him to Christ. *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives* (1 Peter 3:1 NKJV). I know various testimonies of women who have had husbands who not only were not saved, but were in fact bad men. And these men have not wanted their wives to attend church. So the wives have respected the wishes of their husbands, and decided to love and honor their husbands as much as possible. In the end, these husbands have come to Christ due to the loving way in which their Christian wives have treated them. Why? Because the head of the wife is her husband, and while she loves and obeys her husband, she is loving and obeying Christ, and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in her husband’s heart.

The Bible does not teach machoism. It says that the husband is the head of the wife and that he should love her. It also says that the husband should be faithful to his wife. Husbands, Christ is your head. You have a responsibility to Christ and to your family, to take time to listen to His will, and then to obey Him. If you do not submit to your head, who is Christ, you will have disorder in your family. If you learn to submit to Christ in everything, your family will be blessed.

One final word. ²⁸*So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.* ²⁹*For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.* (Ephesians 5:28-29 NKJV) In the world, authority is often seen as a harsh thing. People that have authority often use it to abuse those under them. That is not God’s type of authority. Jesus is our head, and the Bible tells us He nourishes and cherishes us, because we are His body. We have nothing to fear from submitting to His authority and Lordship in every area of our lives. In fact we have everything to gain from doing that. Likewise the authority of a husband is an authority to govern his family in love, so that they can walk in the ways of the Lord and thus be blessed. **The position of a husband is one of responsibility, not of privilege.** I repeat, it is a position of responsibility, not of privilege.

We serve a wonderful Lord. At times His demands seem hard, but as we lovingly submit to Him, we discover that He is not only our Lord but also our faithful Lover. He governs our lives- not like a puppet master pulling the strings on his puppets, but like a loving Lord who shows us His will. Our job then is to govern our lives in such a way that we obey our Lord. And then we will experience all of His wonderful presence and provision and graces. Glory to God!
