

The Supremacy of Christ

We use a lot of titles to describe Christ: firstborn of the dead, firstborn of all creation, reconciler, and head of the Church. What is the significance of these terms? What does it mean when we describe Christ as the firstborn? How does recognizing him as head of the Church help us understand our identity as members of his body? What is he reconciling and who is this reconciliation for? Discovering the origin of these titles and what they mean about Jesus Christ helps us understand just how far his supremacy reaches.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What does it mean that Jesus is the “head of the Church”?
- What is supremacy? What does it mean to be supreme?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [The Supremacy of Christ](#)

READ [Colossians 1:18-20](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Consider NT Wright’s summary of [Colossians 1:15-18](#) from *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters*: “The Jesus through whom the world was made in the first place is the same Jesus through whom the world has now been redeemed. He is the firstborn of all creation, and the firstborn from the dead” (p 152). What do these titles tell us about Jesus Christ’s authority and position? How should they inform our worship?
- Consider these definitions of “[supreme](#)” from Merriam-Webster Dictionary: “highest in rank or authority,” “highest in degree or quality,” and “ultimate, final.” Then read [Ephesians 1:18-23](#). Why does understanding Christ’s supremacy matter? What does it mean for how we live our faith?
- Why is the relationship between Jesus Christ (the head) and the universal Church (his body) essential to our understanding of who Jesus is?
- In segment 2, host Scott Hoezee summarizes Jesus' command to the Church saying the Church “bears his presence to the world and proclaims his presence to the world.” Host Dave Bast asks, “Does the Church look the way Christ commands it to be?” Based on Scott’s summary, how would you answer Dave’s question? What informs your answer?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Ezekiel 47:1-12](#), [Revelation 7:9-17](#), [John 14:8-21](#), [Mark 4:30-32](#), [Ephesians 1:18-23](#), [John 5:21-23](#)

CONCLUSION

Dave and Scott close the episode by discussing reconciliation: the work of settling accounts and restoring relationships. They agree that reconciliation is the reason it's so important for believers to study and understand who Jesus Christ is—his full humanity and his full divinity. Reflect on their closing thoughts:

“He needed to be human enough to bear the guilt of the estrangement and the broken relationship and God enough to have the power to fix it...without a divine Christ who is also human, there is no salvation—there is no reconciliation—the cross is emptied of its power and its significance. The blood cannot do what it needs to do.”

Think about your life. How has Christ's reconciliation and supremacy impacted your life and the lives of those around you? Consider writing your response in the style of the Psalms to praise him for who he is and recognize the impact his authority has in your life.

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