

Discussion Guide: Christ and His Church

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NIV)

March 30, 2003 - 11:00 AM Service: "Christ and His Church" by Pastor Ken Jones - Greater Union Baptist Church in Compton, CA. Pastor Ken was the keynote speaker at the "Christ and His Church" Reformation Theology Conference. Pastor Ken described Christ as...

- A. The King...the head over everything.
- B. The power of the Church...the source of new life
- C. The pre eminent One...our Lord and Savior.

Note: Jesus is Lord and Savior (not one first then the other) of the church and of each person once they believe. You don't accept him as Savior and then allow him to be Lord. He already is Lord. You can't put him into that position; however, you can accept him in that position. That is what happens when you become a believer.

With regard to Christ and the Church, Paul tells us in Ephesians 1:22-23 that...

- The church is the Father's gift to the Son. God purchased the church by the blood of Jesus and gave the church to Jesus.
- God gave Christ to the church. He is the head of the church (i.e. same kind of term as the head of state) as seen in Ephesians 5.
- Christ fills all. He binds us, his church, together. No person, organization or anything else has what believers have! And that is Christ!

According to Pastor Ken, the implications of these verses for the body of Christ are that...

- We can carry out the Great Commission because of Christ and the body as a whole. This is bigger than just one church (like CPC). It has to do with churches as the body of believers around the world. We each are playing a part in proclaiming the Gospel to the world.
- We have increased confidence because our hope is only in Christ.
- We are brought into union with Christ.
- Jesus provides comfort for the Church (Romans 8:31-39). Do you wrestle with sin (guilt, anger, coveting, etc)? Your sin cannot wrestle you out of His hands. Nothing can.

Discussion Question:

- Is Jesus the Lord of your Life? If yes, how is this reality demonstrated in the way you live? The words you speak? Your attitudes towards self and others?
- In what ways can we help to proclaim the gospel to the world?
- What part are you playing?
- What can we do to encourage each other in sharing our faith with others?
- What things do you wrestle with in reference to Romans 8:31-39?
- How can you use God's word to help you in your struggle?