

Lesson 8 – Tuesday Notes

Theme: Christ the Head of the Church

I. What Does “Head” Mean? (Eph. 1:22; Col. 2:10; Eph. 5:23)

A. “Head” = Authority, Leadership, Source, and Life

- In Scripture, “head” is a **metaphor for authority** (leadership, rulership, direction).
 - It also conveys **source** and **nourishment**—the head directs, coordinates, and sustains the body.
 - When Paul calls Jesus the “**head of the church**” (Eph. 5:23):
 - He is saying Christ is the **ultimate authority**.
 - Christ provides **guidance, leadership, direction**, and **life** to His people.
 - The church’s unity, identity, growth, and mission all flow **from Him**.
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II. Old Testament Uses of “Head” (Leadership Roles)

These texts show how “head” universally refers to **leadership**:

1. **Numbers 31:26** — “heads of the fathers’ houses”
 - Heads = tribal leaders, decision-makers.
2. **Deuteronomy 28:13** — Israel to be “the head and not the tail”
 - Head = the leading nation, not the follower.

- Symbol of **prominence and God-blessed leadership**.
- 3. **Isaiah 7:8** — “The head of Syria is Damascus ... the head of Damascus is Rezin.”
 - “Head” = capital city and its king; seat of power.
- 4. **Hosea 1:11** — Israel and Judah will “appoint one head.”
 - A single recognized leader over God’s united people.
- 5. **Micah 3:9** — “You heads of the house of Jacob...”
 - Heads = rulers, authority figures.
- 6. **1 Corinthians 11:3** — “The head of every man is Christ.”
 - Christ = rightful spiritual leader of every believer.

→ **Conclusion:**

Across Scripture, “head” consistently means **authority, leadership, guidance**.

III. The Body Metaphor (1 Corinthians 12:12–27)

Paul expands the concept by calling the church a **body**:

A. What This Metaphor Teaches About the Church

1. Unity in Diversity

- Many members, one body.
- Different functions, but all are necessary.

2. Mutual Dependence

- The eye needs the hand; the head needs the feet.
- No one can say, “I don’t need you.”
- Every believer is essential.

3. Shared Suffering and Shared Joy

- “If one suffers, all suffer.”
- “If one is honored, all rejoice.”

4. Gift-Based Ministry

- Every member contributes something unique.
- The Spirit assigns roles as He wills.

5. Interconnected Identity

- You are not isolated; you belong to a living organism.
- Christ as the head coordinates all parts.

IV. The Illustration: Losing a Limb or an Eye

The lesson's question:

If you had to give up a limb or an eye, what would you choose?

Point:

- Every part of the body is **vital**, even the ones we take for granted.
- We only realize the value of something when it's gone.
- Likewise, every member of the church is **essential** to the health of the whole.

Even the “smallest” part contributes to the vitality of the body.

V. Christ as the Head (Col. 2:19)

- As the **Head**, Christ gives:

- Direction
 - Organization
 - Unity
 - Nourishment
 - Growth
 - Without the Head, the body cannot function or survive.
 - When believers remain connected to Christ:
 - They grow.
 - The church remains unified.
 - Spiritual maturity happens naturally.
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VI. Summary Statement

The metaphor of Christ as the **Head** teaches:

- Christ is the **leader** of His people.
- Christ is the **source of spiritual life**.
- Christ holds the body together in **unity**.
- Every member is **indispensable** to the mission of the church.
- Just as the body without the head is lifeless,
the church without Christ loses purpose, direction, and power.