



## CROSSROADS COUNSELING

*emphasizing biblical hope & restoration*

www.crossroadsaugusta.org ♦ 706.364.1270

### Christ the Head

Any debate over what it means for a husband to be the head of his wife in Ephesians 5:23, should not begin until a study has been done of what it means for Christ to be the head of the church in Ephesians 1:22. The relationship of husband and wife are meant to mirror the relationship of Christ and the church. To start with husband and wife questions would be like learning about the Grand Canyon from a picture when you could take a tour by donkey back.

There is no way to answer the breadth of questions this subject creates and this goal here is not to debate skeptics. What can be offered is a process of reflection for the genuinely confused or those seeking a more complete understanding. Use the following questions to help you journey from Ephesians 1 (where Paul starts) to Ephesians 5.

- How does Christ relate to the church in authority, compassion, guidance, allowing freedom/preference, sacrifice, patience, etc...?
- What are other titles/metaphors/roles by which Christ relates to the church? How are these similar to, different from, or complementary with that of “head”?
- How well does the church respond to Christ as her head?
- How does Christ respond to the church in the midst of her struggles to submit?
- What decisions do a husband and wife face where headship and submission are needed? In what situations should general obedience (actions, values, & disposition) to God’s Word make headship and submission largely irrelevant categories?
- How should a husband relate to his wife in authority, compassion, guidance, allowing freedom/preference, sacrifice, patience, etc...?
- What other titles/metaphors/roles does Scripture give for how a husband relates to his wife?
- What should happen when a husband fails to be a Christ-like head? What should happen when a wife fails to respond in church-like submission?
- What practical or theological questions remain for you about husband-wife relations?

As you continue in this study of Ephesians, pay careful attention to the relationship between Christ and the church to prepare you to accurately apply the marriage section.

*written by:*

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