

Title: Christ in His Place (4/28/24 PM)

Text: (Col 1:18) *"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."*

To put Him in 1st place:

1) Is a privilege - He has done so much and been so good to us, we do not deserve it!

It is an honor to be able to put Him in first place and we ought to be compelled by love to Him to do so.

2) Is a prerequisite - A person can "survive" w/o Jesus but they will not Thrive (Jn 10:10).

It is a requirement that we put Him in first place. He will not have second best!

3) Is a prescription - It is necessary to become the Christian you are to be, to please God, and for Him to be able to do in your life what He has had planned all along.

4) Is a preference - It says, *"that he **might** have the preeminence"* so it must be chosen since it is not automatic. It is not forced upon us to have Him first place.

Areas we *must* have Him in 1st place:

1. Our Decisions

He is to be the head of our priorities, the hub around which our life revolves.

Consult Him in everything.

(Josh 9:14) *"And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD."*

As a result of not making decisions with God first they took a step they grew to regret.

Having Him 1st place means what He says goes and there ought to be no debate about it!

2. Our Devotion

We ought to have passion to serve and live for Him.

If you are a born again Christian, you ought to get excited that you are headed to Heaven!

"If you have no joy in your religion, there's a leak in your Christianity somewhere!"

(Billy Sunday)

3. Our Direction

He is the Head.

If He is not directing then it means we are a headless body!

We will get nowhere if He is not leading.

He is to be our primary purpose.

(Matt 6:33) *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

4. Our Delight

(Ps. 37:4) *"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."* We ought to get excited about being saved, about getting to know God.

We ought to delight in drawing close to Him.

We ought to delight in drawing close to Him.

5. Our Dependence

(John 15:5) *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: **for without me ye can do nothing.**"*

We can do nothing, nothing worthwhile or lasting or right.

(Phil 4:13) *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*

That is, through Him I can do all things that are right, that are reasonable, that are required of me in the Bible, and that are eternally rewarding.

6. Our Declarations

(Psalm 150:6) *“Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.”*

(Psalm 34:1) *“I will bless the LORD **at all times**: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”*

(Luke 4:43) *“And he said unto them, **I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.**”*

He ought be in all our talk.

He ought to be our life message.

By putting something in 1st place you say it is important, more so than anything else.

Is there anything you have left to vie for position #1 of your life?

Is it "up for grabs" or is it a permanent position for Jesus?

Do you allow Him to be displaced by **much** less important things?