

The Anatomy of the Church—Christ, the Head, Part 8

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I. Introduction.

A. We have a confidence that Christ is building up the body. We give supreme effort, but anything that is done is of God. (Ephesians 4)

B. Text: Hebrews 13:21.

C. Christ does several things for his church.

II. Christ saves his church.

A. His name speaks of his saving work. (Matthew 1:21, Hebrews 2:9-10, Acts 4:12)

B. He saves by his shed blood. There could be no peace with God without the shed blood of Christ. (Matthew 26:28)

C. The resurrection of Christ was the great affirmation of God's saving work. (Colossians 1:20)

III. He loves his church. (Ephesians 5:2, John 13, Revelation 1:5)

IV. He builds his church. We do not build the church for him. We should seek to be a part of the church that he is building. (Matthew 16)

V. He is the Great Shepherd. (Psalm 77, John 10, 1 Peter 5)

A. Believers are sheep with a shepherd.

B. Our service is to be a part of what Christ is doing.

C. He is perfecting us to do his will. (1 Peter 5:10, Acts 1:8, John 15)

D. He nourishes and cherishes the church. (Ephesians 5)

VI. He is sovereign over his church. (Ephesians 1, Colossians 1:15)

A. He rules his church. (Ephesians 5:23, Revelation 1, Matthew 18)

B. He teaches his church. (John 14, 1 John 2:20)

VII. He is the sanctifier who glorifies and purifies his church.

Application Questions:

1. What does it mean that Christ is head of the church?

2. Why is it dangerous to view any one pastor or teacher as the leader of a church?

3. What comfort can we take in knowing that Christ is the head?
