

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Ephesians 1:22-23

Christ's Headship for the Church

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Christ As Head

Ephesians 1:22, 23 (HCSB)
And He put everything under His feet and appointed Him as head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of the One who fills all things in every way.

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Christ—The Last Adam

Ephesians 1:22a (HCSB)
And He put everything under His feet

- This alludes to Psalm 8:6 and links it to Psalm 110:1
- Psalm 8:4-6 is about Adam being head over the sub-human earthly creation
- Christ subjugated all things, even the beings of the heavenly realm
- Christ is called “the last Adam” in 1Corinthians 15:45

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Christ Is Head for the Church

Ephesians 1:22b (HCSB)

and appointed Him as head over everything for the church

- The church is the beneficiary of Christ's supremacy over the cosmos
- This applies to the church universal, which is how Ephesians uses the term "church"
- "appointed" is the word "gave" in the Greek in the same tense as "subjected" in verse 22a (HCSB "put under")

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The Church and Christ's Fullness

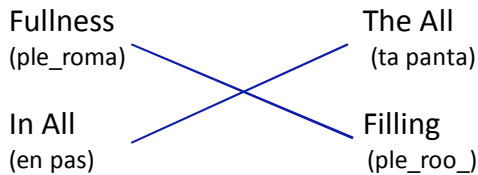
Ephesians 1:23 (HCSB)

which is His body, the fullness of the One who fills all things in every way

- In the OT "fills" is used in reference to God (Jeremiah 23:24; Isaiah 6:3; et. al.)
- John 1:16 uses "fullness" as a communicable attribute of God
- Habakkuk 2:14 predicts that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory" of Yahweh

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Chiastic Structure of Fullness



Fullness is a noun; filling is a participle

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Implications and Applications

- We must accurately define the church
- As God's glory filled the temple, the church is to be filled with God's fullness to the praise of His glory

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The Body of Christ

Colossians 1:18a (NASB)

He is also **head of the body**, the church

- The headship of Christ applies to all who believe
- People are added to the church through conversion (Acts 2:47)
- There is corporate solidarity in Christ as the head of the church
- "He" is an intensive pronoun and emphatic

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Fullness and Glory Signify God's Presence

Ephesians 3:19b, 21a (NASB)

that you may be **filled up to all the fullness** of God...to Him be the **glory** in the church and in Christ Jesus.

- The glory and fullness were associated with the temple and tabernacle in the OT
- Exodus 40:34-35; 1Kings 8:10, 11
- We see Christ and His church as "presence" under the new covenant

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The Church As God's Temple

Ephesians 2:21, 22 (NASB)

in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

- Under the new covenant, God fills the corporate body of believers with His presence
- In Acts we see the body of Christ filled as the temple system had rejected Christ

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