

Points

- The Story of Jesus doesn't start in the manger.
- 1. Jesus who was before is; 2. Jesus the Savior; 3. Jesus the Supreme; 4. Jesus the Coming Victor.
- Jesus is the Supreme -He is in charge
- At a time when the world needs the hope of Jesus, the church is struggling.
- Jesus' people – the church – need to remember who is in charge.
- Colossians 1:18 - ⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.
- If Jesus is to be supreme over the church, what is the church supposed to be?
- ...the body...
- ...the church...
- ...He is the firstborn of the dead...
- Kennon Callahan – We are the Easter People!
- What does it mean to be church? We are moving for Jesus (the body); we have decided and are acting for Jesus (the church); and we are Easter People (firstborn of the dead).
- What does it mean for Jesus to be supreme over the church?
- He is the head of the body...
- "What does Jesus want
- ...he is the beginning...
- Matthew 16:15-18 - ¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
- ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.
- ...the firstborn from among the dead...
- ... in everything he might have the supremacy.
- Follow Jesus, lose your opinion.
- Jesus is more than a baby; he is the Supreme Authority for his people.
- We are the body of Christ, and Jesus is in charge.
- I want to follow Jesus without the church.
- Jesus doesn't think that way.
- Whatever Jesus says, our answer is "yes!"

Group Discussion Questions

Starter: If Jesus was pastor of our church, what would he change?

Go Deeper

1. Read Colossians 1:18
2. Share at least two ways the church could act more like a body and less like an institution.
3. In your opinion, why do many churches not take action? What is holding them back?
4. Explain what Jesus being the head of the church means to you. What would be signs that a church does have Jesus as the head?
5. Again, as in verse 15, Jesus is described as the "firstborn." This time, he is identified as the firstborn of the dead. Why do you think Paul is extending that metaphor? What does it mean for his followers that he is the firstborn of the dead?
6. Jesus is to have supremacy in everything – in the church and in our lives. In your opinion, where do churches have trouble letting Jesus be supreme? Where do most Jesus followers have trouble letting Jesus be supreme?