

Ephesians. The Identity of the Church that Overcomes.

Part 16: The Glorious Power that Upholds us and the Destiny that Awaits Us

Houses of Light Church • November 10, 2024 • Pastor Netz Gomez & Ilse Marquez

Focus: Ephesians 1:19-22

“ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ”

Ephesians 1:19-22

Paul writes down his prayers for the church of Ephesus in Ephesians 1:18-19. They have become prayers we can adopt as the church as we continue to grow in our understanding of who God is and how we ought to live. Paul is praying that we would know the incomparable greatness of God's power not only mentally but with the eyes of our heart to see how valuable and precious it is and most importantly, that this power is for those who believe.

I. Christ is above every power on the earth. Three realities about the exaltation of Christ:

1. Eph. 1:21a states **Christ is “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion.”** Even though there are certain powers at work in and around the world, Christ is far above them. When God raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand, He placed Him above them all forever. These powers, rulers, and authorities could seem very powerful to us and may even include human manifestations in all kinds of institutional evil, but Jesus is far above them all.
2. Eph. 1:21b states that **Christ was given a name that is “above every name that is named.”** These rulers of the heavenly realms may be seen as undefined evil forces that have extreme power and that we might encounter, but even when they manifest under certain names, we must know that Jesus is “above every name that is named.” There are religions and sects around the world that exercise their power through decrees, curses, and spells. There are also false gods that are actually demons (1 Cor. 10:20), and those who practice these religions may use the name of one of them to utter curses, but what the Holy Spirit is affirming here is that when God seated Christ at His right hand, it was not only over demonic forces in general but also over the forces of spells, curses, or decrees that someone might name. He is above all, there is no need to fear.
3. Eph. 1:21c states that **Christ is above all the names and powers of this world “not only in this age but also in the one to come.”** This is not only true in this age but also in the age to come. The resurrection of the dead at Christ's coming marks the beginning of the age or world to come.
 - A. As long as this world as we see it lasts, Christ will have supreme power over rulers, powers, dominions, and when the coming age begins, He will still be in charge of everything. So don't worry, in the new heavens and the new earth Christ will still be over everything.
 - B. Jesus can remove any authority whenever He pleases in this age and the age to come (Dan. 2:21). We will never have to fear that in the distant future some new power will be able to challenge our joyful heavenly sovereign.

Jesus reigns above every kind of government, power or authority in any culture, nation, among any religion or belief in the world. So we don't have to be afraid that He only covers a certain area of authority, He is over all of them forever. The confidence that we have is so great, that no matter what power is over a region or nation, we can preach the gospel everywhere and know that Christ will be with us until the end of the world!

Matthew 28:19-20 - *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

II. Praying and talking about God as one thing

- A. This portion (Eph. 1:17-23) is a narrative of what Paul prays, but we do not know where he ends his prayer, perhaps where he says “...and put all things under His feet.” The apostle does not say “amen” or “in the name of Jesus” he simply continues writing.
- B. Paul is aware that while he teaches he does so before God. So when he says that he prays for these things and moves to speak of God he has not moved from the presence of God.
2 Corinthians 2:17 - “For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.”
- C. What you say to God and what you say about God are one thing. When Paul directs us to pray without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17) one of the implications may be that when we talk about God we are so eager to speak before Him with His eyes upon us that our prayer and our speaking of Him are only one thing.

III. Christ is the head of the church and everything else

- A. All this immense power and authority that we have spoken of is so that He may be the head for the good of the church. Being the head of the church means that He serves and supplies everything that the church needs (Eph. 5:29). The purpose of all this is that when we hear it we will be amazed that all the great force of His effective power is on our side — “power toward us who believe” (Eph. 1:19).
- B. The church has Christ as its head and can enjoy the protection and certainty that it will benefit from His being the head over all things (Eph. 1:22). This analogy is so that we know that the body does what the head commands-- that is what the body is for, to carry out what the head wants. The head is not the one that walks, it commands the feet to do it. The body is what carries out decisions and will of the head.

IV. The church fills everything in everyone

Eph. 1:22-23 - *“And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”*

- A. This chapter closes with a phrase that has been difficult for commentators to interpret, but there are things we can understand from the context. Paul says, “This [the church] is his [Christ's] body, [the church is] the fullness of him who fills all in all.” The NIV translation puts it this way, “[the church] is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way..”
- B. So Christ is the one who fills everything so that we in turn may fill everything with Him.
Ephesians 4:10 *“...He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things...”*
- C. He is the one who fills all things and here it says that His body is “the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” The Body of Christ is acting on behalf of Christ to fill all in all. As the church grows and is built up by apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers (Eph. 4:16) it is becoming adequate to reach the stature of the fullness of Him who fills all in all, that is, Christ.
Ephesians 4:11-13 - *“ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...”*
- D. So Christ is the fullness in many ways, including the fact that His body is growing toward fullness.

Revelation 3:21 - *“The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.”*

2 Timothy 2:12a - *“if we endure, we will also reign with him...”*

- E. Christ is saying, “I want to put you on my Father's throne with me.” Wherever the authority of His throne expands, He will do it with us.
- F. According to the promises in the Word, the church will have authority over the nations, judge angels and reign with Christ. From this, we can conclude that the church, which is His body, will fill the universe because we will be the fullness of Him. We will carry out his fullness when we carry out government and influence where He has placed us.
- G. At the peak of history God has determined that His Son should have a body, a bride (Eph. 5:25-32) who will be exalted with Him. She will sit on the throne and rule with Christ and when she does, she will fill everything just as Christ does because she is the church. As members of the body, we are His representatives filling the world with His influence, His authority, His righteousness. This glorious destiny for the human race in Christ is what outlines our identity and eternal future with Him.

Reflection questions:

- 1. How do you feel knowing that Christ's authority is far above all government and authority, power and dominion, and every other name that is named? Explain**
- 2. According to this teaching, why can we be so confident in Christ? Are you living in this reality?**
- 3. According to this teaching, how does the church fill all in all?**

Announcements:

1. We have baptism preparation class Monday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. in Building 2. For more information, or to sign up, email us at hello@housesoflight.org.
2. Thanksgiving service on Thursday, November 28 at 11:00 a.m.
3. Log on to housesoflight.church to access teaching notes, videos, sign up for friendship groups, and get updates on all our upcoming events!