

Handling Christ

"... holding the Head, out from whom all the body, being supplied and knit together through the joints and bands, grows with the growth of God." – Col. 2:19

There is only one thing to say – Christ

I want to make this very simple. I do not have anything else to share but one thing – Christ. O Christ! What a Christ! I can only say what the Father says. Listen to the Father: "This is My beloved Son – Hear Him!" What a Christ! In this universe Christ is all. Christ is everything. There is no meaning apart from Christ. Our whole life, our day-by-day living, is just an existence for Christ. He is all and in all. Hallelujah! We have one burden. This burden is to see how God is all in all, and how Christ is all in all. Our God wants all because He is all, and He wants to be all.

Brothers and sisters, Christ wants to be all – to be all to you, to be all to me. He is all and in all. He is not just all outside of us. He is all inside of us. This means God has a place to act in. God has a place to think through. God has a place to feel through. When God is all, He is all in us. He acts in

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us. He thinks and He feels in us. He loves in us. He prays in us. He talks in us. He ministers through us. He is all in all. Hallelujah!

Our one occupation – handle Christ

So we are reduced to one thing, and that is to hold the Head, to handle Christ, to touch Christ. Our one occupation is to handle Christ. Let us turn to Colossians 1:18. It says, "And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things." Christ is the Head. He is the Head of His Body, the church. The way His Headship is expressed is through the church. The form of the Headship of Christ is in the church in order that He might have the first place in all things. So in this universe, there must be a group of people called the church, where He has the first place in all things. Before everything He has the preeminence, He has the first place.

How can this be in our experience? How does Christ have the first place in all things in our experience? He wants to be all things to the church. God wants nothing less than all. In

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everything, all day long, He wants to be all. Not seventy-five percent. Not ninety-nine percent. God is all. He wants to be all. Then He is fully expressed. And the church is the way He is expressed. He is going to fill this universe with Himself. He is going to be all in all in the entire universe. And He has already started. He started by coming into us to become our all. Now through the church He has a footing in this universe.

How Christ has first place

But how does Christ have the first place? In Colossians 1:18 He has the first place, and in Colossians 2:19 we find out how He has the first place. Let me read verse 19: "And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God." This is how Christ is all things – by our holding the Head. This is the only way. Hold the Head. Do not ever let go of the Head. If you have a reaction and you do not like your reaction, do one thing. Hold the Head. We only hold Christ. We only handle Christ. We do not handle anything else. We do not handle

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ourselves. We do not handle our problems. We do not handle our reactions. We are not authorized to handle anything. We are only authorized to handle Christ.

The Father handles everything with Christ

In creating this universe, the Father did not touch anything apart from Christ. When the Father made His plan in eternity past, His plan was with His Son. He chose us all in Him before the foundation of the world. So when the Father was thinking about us, when the Father chose us, He chose us in His Son. He thought about us in Christ. The Father handled us in Christ. So when the Father made His plan, He did it with His Son. Then when He created all things, the Father did not do it directly. The Father touched the universe only with Christ. Look at Colossians 1:15-16: 15 ". . . the Firstborn of all creation, 16 because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him." Hallelujah! All things were created in Him,

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through Him, and unto Him. So when the Father touched the universe to create all things, He only touched it with His Son. He only touched it with Christ.

Look at John 1:3: "All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not one thing came into being which has come into being." You have to see that it says "not one thing." The Holy Spirit says, "not one thing." Not one thing in the universe came into being apart from Christ. This is how the Father handles the universe. The Father handled everything with Christ. Not one thing was apart from Christ. Then who are we? Who are we to handle ourselves? Who are we to handle our problems? Who are we to handle our relationships? The Father handles nothing apart from Christ. Hallelujah! I have been redeemed. You have been redeemed. We have been brought back to God to do one thing – handle Christ. This is everything. We are holding the Head. He is the Head of the Body, the church, so that in all things He would have first place.

The way Christ has first place is by our holding Him as the Head. To hold means to seize. It means to grip. It means to hold tight. Do not

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loosen your grip on Christ. Hold Him. This is a present tense verb. It means continually hold Him. When you feel your self rising up, when you feel discouragement taking over, what do you do? Hold! Oh, it is by this holding that we are filled with Christ. We do not touch our discouragement. We are not qualified to handle discouragement. We may get discouraged. The devil sometimes tries to depress us. But every time those feelings come, they are a green light with a green arrow pointing us to handle Christ. Amen! It forces us to call His name. We say, "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!" Oh, we have a way to hold Him. We have a way to handle Him. This is all we are occupied with – holding the Head, seizing the Head, learning how to interact with Christ.

Handling Christ is the way to be supplied

The Colossian believers were in trouble. They were distracted from Christ by some good things – the tradition of men, religious practices, even worshipping of angels. Look at the way Paul speaks in Colossians 2:18: "Let no one defraud you by judging you unworthy of your prize, in self-

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chosen lowliness and the worship of the angels, dwelling on the things which he has seen, vainly puffed up by the mind of his flesh." The Colossians were dabbling in all these things and they got distracted. They did not receive the supply. So Paul says in verse 19, "And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God."

Oh, brothers and sisters, it is by handling Christ that we are supplied. The supply is in handling Him, interacting with Him, not touching anything apart from Him. The supply is in not trusting our mind, not trusting our reasoning, not trusting a thought coming into our mind about a saint. We are not qualified to think. We are only qualified to handle Christ. When I handle Christ, something happens to my mind. I get the mind of the Spirit. I get new thoughts. My mind is renewed. This happens by handling Him. The Colossian saints were not handling Christ. They got distracted with religion. They got distracted with themselves. They wanted to improve, they wanted to be better, they wanted to grow. Then someone came along and said, "Do this. Do not do that.

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Touch not. Handle not. Taste not." They were trying all these things. They became occupied with methods, with trying to produce their own righteousness.

But thank God for the apostle Paul. He came right into the midst of the church life. He stood there and said, "Brothers and sisters, do not let anyone cheat you. Do not be defrauded. You must hold Christ! You must handle Christ. Let me show you how the Father created the universe. He did it in Christ, through Him, and unto Him. Then He made Him the Head of His Body, the church, that in all things He would have the first place." Oh, there is a hallelujah! Oh, our Christ! What a Christ! The Father handled everything through Christ, and now we echo the Father.

The Father's testimony concerning His Son

First John 5:9 says, "If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, because this is the testimony of God that He has testified concerning His Son." Let us all stop and have a testimony meeting. The first testimony is God's! God is going to testify. Let us listen to His

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testimony: "This is the testimony of God that He has testified concerning His Son." Hallelujah! The Father is testifying about His Son. Then verse 10 says, "He who believes into the Son of God has the testimony in himself." Oh, brothers and sisters, Christ is in you, and when you say, "Jesus!" you touch the very feeling of God the Father concerning the Son. When you say, "Jesus is the Son of God," you are testifying with the Father. You are speaking the same thing the Father is speaking. When we handle His Son, when we confess His Son, we echo the Father. That is why we bubble inside. It is because we have struck the chord of the universe. That one chord is Christ. Hallelujah!

Then verses 10-11 continue, 10 "He who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony which God has testified concerning His Son. 11 And this is he testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son." Oh, His Son! Hallelujah! Touch the Son! Handle the Son! In the midst of your problems, in the midst of your tears, in the midst of your weakness, only do one thing – touch the Son. And when you handle Him, when you bring

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yourself to Him, when you bring your problems to Him – when you give Him the first place – you trigger the Spirit inside. You get the testimony in yourself because the Spirit bears witness to the name of Jesus. Hallelujah! Oh, what a vision! In this whole universe the Father wants to make His Son all in all, so He handled everything with His Son.

In His eternal plan over us, God handled us with His Son. Moreover, He handled all of creation with His Son. Then He gave His testimony about His Son. In His redemption of us, He did not do anything apart from His Son. And in the execution of His plan, He is doing everything by His Son. Let us look at Ephesians 1:10: "Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him." Oh, brothers and sisters, we need to soak in this verse. We must merge with the divine feeling because it will regulate our entire daily living. Such a verse will relate us together in the church life. Such a revelation from this verse will cause us to handle everything in Christ.

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Practical experiences of Christ being all to us

Ephesians 1:10 says that Christ is to head up all things. This means in our experience He wants to head up everything that is outside of Him. Let me give a testimony. As I was getting ready to board the plane in Phoenix to go to England and then to Africa, 35 minutes before the plane was to leave, I suddenly remembered I had forgotten my suits. So at that time, I had a practical experience of how Christ could be everything to me. We have to see He wants to be all things. So I called the office where the sisters were. I said, "Emergency! Please, two sisters drive to the airport, stop at the curb, one stay in the car, and one run up with the suits and do it quick!" But during all that time while I was waiting, waiting, waiting until the last minute, I was mingling my spirit with Christ instead of bearing all the anxiety. I was not qualified to handle those 35 minutes. In such a situation I am only qualified to handle Christ! As I was just ready to board, running down the concourse came one of our sisters with a heavy package of suits. She was out of breath, but when she brought them to me, she delivered me Christ.

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Her face was like an angel. She said, "We prayed all the way." Amen! Christ is all! He is all at the airport.

Then in England I put my luggage on the airplane to come to Africa. I wanted to hand-carry my luggage onto the plane because I had two computers. But the lady at the counter said that I could not bring my luggage into the plane. It had to go underneath. So it went underneath. When I arrived here, I opened it up, and all the glass on one of the screens was broken. If anything could touch me, that would touch me. But I said, "Lord, I am not qualified to feel bad. Amen! I am only qualified to handle You!" Hallelujah! As I was going to sleep that night, the thoughts kept coming. They wanted to leech on my mind: "The computer is broken. All my Bible software – I can't get into it." As those thoughts were trying to leech, it only caused me to say, "Jesus. Jesus. You are all." In all our practical affairs, He wants to be all.

The church is a matter of handling Christ

We must hold Him. We must handle Him. And sometimes we must squeeze hard. When you

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feel like your flesh is going to take over, it is not a matter of taking condemnation. It is not a matter of making a resolution. It is not a matter of trying better next time. It is a matter of seizing Christ. This is all I have to say.

Brothers and sisters, God needs on this earth a group of people that will release His testimony. He gave the first one. He shouted it to the universe – "It is not Moses. It is not Elijah. It is My Son. Hear Him! Handle Him. Interact with Him." You have a problem? Bring it to Him. Then He fills. He wants to fill all. He wants to be all in us, that He would be all in all.

This is the church – handling Christ in every relationship, in every kind of offense that occurs in the church. All these things are under God's sovereignty. God's goal through all our environments, inward and outward, is that we would handle His Son. Then His Son becomes all and in all. He is really the Head. He is not a figurehead. We are seizing the living Head. And out of this the whole Body, with all the members, are being knit together. It is not just human agreement. It is not just a human society. Why do we feel so connected with one another? Because

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inwardly we are touching the same Head. And so we are knit together. The fellowship can only get richer and higher and deeper. Praise the Lord! This is by handling Christ.

And then we grow with the growth of God. We are not setting up our church life. We are not trying to do something on this earth. We are here with one occupation. Oh, we handle Christ. We hold Him. Then we grow with the proper growth. We are related by the Son. You testify how you handled Christ. I testify how I handled Christ. We may have a problem in our natural life with each other. That is okay. You handle Christ and I handle Christ. What a glory! What a shame to the enemy. And then we grow, not by political agreement, but because we just know how to seize Him. When we seize Him, we embrace one another. We are knit together. And the very growth of God is here on this earth. Hallelujah!

We are so happy to be here. This is something so marvelous to our spirit, that we could all come from different parts of the earth and bring in the Father, bring in the festal gathering, bring in the myriads of angels, bring in all the saints from West Africa and talk about His Son! Let us testify about

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such a Christ. Amen! Thank You, Jesus! We are here for You. We love You. We want You! Cause us to handle You. Thank You for Your presence. Saturate us. Lord, gain a footing in us so that You could have first place in all things. Hallelujah! We anticipate Your taking us over little by little. Thank You, Lord. We agree with the Father. Hallelujah!

— *Bill Freeman*