

JESUS IS

Jesus the Christ was, is, and will be. Jesus is here, Jesus is there; Jesus is in here, Jesus is out there. Jesus is the song in a bird; Jesus is the strength of a buffalo. Jesus is the green in a tree leaf; Jesus is the unseen sound and effect of the wind. Jesus is the warmth of a gracious hostess, Jesus is the grief of a man with the spirit of Habakkuk; Jesus *is* the Spirit of Habakkuk. Jesus is the gift of hospitality; Jesus is the gift of administration. Jesus is the gift of an apostle; Jesus is the gift of a shepherd. Jesus is all that is beneficial, all that is good, all that is power, all that is authority, all that is pleasant, all that is up-building, all that is favorable.

Jesus is all that pertains to life, and Jesus has all the titles. Whatever is good originates from, delegates to, and terminates with, Jesus. All titles, all accolades, all recognition, all favorable reports, all praise, all attribution, all position, all elevation, all attention, all power, and all authority are the sole right and property of Jesus.

Adam named all the animals according to their bent, their purpose, their function. Their name *was what they were*. Jesus' nature was throughout all of creation, whether bird or beast or man, tree, leaf, wind or water. A part of Jesus is in all of life, as Jesus saw fit and proper.

The early Hebrews named their children according to their bent and nature. As such, they literally lived out their nature and bent, which happened to be after the will of God. So it is with our physical bodies; our kidneys filter out the liquids and dispense them to their proper place; our tongue tastes what goes into our mouths and decides whether is good or not, and so performs its function. Our brain absorbs, analyzes, and makes judgments as to a proper action, whether it be moving, staying, or leaving. Our stomach acidizes the food intake, and dissolves it to a form ready for the small intestine. Our kneecap houses and protects the critical joint of our legs; and so forth.

When we skin our kneecap, it is our hands that clean it, and apply ointment, making it possible for the skinned kneecap to heal on its own. Similarly, when our bodies are tired, our brains jump in and tell it to rest. There is a little nerve in our kidneys which alerts us it is time to relieve ourselves. Our eyes (or one eye in my case) alert our body a car is coming, and to get out of the way. Our ears alert us of an oncoming train. And so it goes with the various parts of our body functioning as they were designed, in order to preserve and protect the body. Needless to say, when one part hurts the whole body hurts. When one part feels good, the whole feels good.

So it is with the Body of Jesus; the various parts, each with their particular function, operate to preserve and protect the whole. Those given the tendency to preach the Good News do so; those with the penchant to give mercy to those in need do so; those with the gift and tendency to teach do so. Those with the ability to see, and the bent to watch out for the direction of the Body do so. Ones to whom is given the interior nature of walking with God do so, as do those with the gift of administration, the gift of giving, and the gift of planting churches. The gift of helps, the gift of discernment, the gift of insight, the gift of wisdom, the gift of interpretation, the gift of whatever is put within us as God saw fit, is what we *are*, and what we were created to *be*.

These gifts are internal, and are part of us; they are names, but not titles. They are functions, not offices. They are to be used for the benefit of all, not to elevate ourselves. These are all properties and parts of the nature of Jesus, no less than our kneecap is a part, performing a *function*. It has a name, but not a title. It just does its thing, as it was created to do. Do you suppose we should call our kneecap “Sir” Kneecap, or “Reverend” Kneecap, or “Mr.” Kneecap, or “Pastor” Kneecap? –all with capital letters, just because it is performing the task for which it was created?

As Paul says, “I am a servant of Jesus.” Does a servant have a title? He says he is “an apostle” of Jesus, but I notice it has small letters at the beginning. Equally Ephesians 4:11, (which most love to capitalize) the “five-fold” gifts have small letters, not capitals. Upon probing these scriptures, one will find the word *office* is not in the Greek, nor in the Hebrew. Indeed, you will find *all the gifts are functions*, not offices and not titles.

The word *office* is of Egyptian and/or Babylonian origin, as were titles. One who holds an “office” is an officer. An officer is one who mandates, directs and commands others. A *title* surreptitiously elevates the title holder and vertically separates him from those under him. A name is one thing; title and offices quite another. A title and/or formal, capitalized name automatically create a hierarchy. A name does not, especially when the name denotes a function as opposed to a position. Titles and positions are manmade, pure and simple. Furthermore, any Title or capitalized Position *instantly* takes away from that which is exclusively due Jesus and Jesus only. The praise and recognition are His, and His sole right to receive.

There are those who labor over whether or not the prophet is still extant, especially with a capital “P.” The same arguments fly from time to time over a multitude of biblical questions. It was the people who labeled him. The same is true for the “priest”; it is said (from God), “You shall minister to me.” Well, now; that throws a wrinkle into things!

The spirit of a prophet in a man or woman is a part of Jesus; it originated from His spiritual loins, emanates from Him, and is an integral part of Him. That same spirit of a prophet (which is essentially a function to present the LORD) was present in David, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, John the Baptizer, Jesus, and multitudes since. It is a spirit of Jesus, timeless, without boundaries. Whatever spirit of Jesus you want to choose is also the same: mercy is of Him, and timeless. Preaching is a spirit of Jesus, timeless, without boundaries. Strength, courage, wisdom, helps, hospitality, giving, etc. all are spirits of Jesus, without title, without formal positions, without any verticality whatsoever. Any spirit of Jesus is just that, a spirit of Jesus; therefore it is a function, not a title.

So just as the individual parts of our human bodies have functions, and are directed by one head, so the individual parts of the Body of Jesus have functions, and directed by one Head. Would you have another tell the parts of your body what to do? What if my friend had a set of bowels, and he allowed me to tell his bowels what to do, and when to operate? One can only imagine the chaos, and pain, and clogging of the works! Worse yet, what if he had a set of bowels, and relegated the authority of their operation to his toenail? No, that wouldn’t work either. The proper operation of his bowels stems from the little nerve in the bowels telling the head it’s time to move; then the *head* instructs the legs to head for the bathroom!

Similarly, it is the Head that is supposed to direct traffic, and it is Him and Him only that knows what, where, when and to whom things need doing.

Why then, is it, we who call ourselves members of the Body of Christ, look to others to tell us what to do, when to move, and where to go? Does not the Word tell us we are *all* called? Why then do we persist in upholding a system that acknowledges that only the “pastor” (with a BIG ‘P’!) or “evangelist” is called? Aren’t *all* of us ‘called’??

Please, do a little thinking...

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