

Christ Community Church  
 Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013  
**Christ Rules!**

Core Value #6: We believe that all of us are called to ministry and are positioned to **transform the world around us.**

### **Ephesians 1:20-23** The Message

All this energy issues from **Christ**: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in **deep heaven**, in charge of running the **universe**, everything from **galaxies to governments**, no name and **no power exempt** from his rule. And not just for the time being, but **forever**. He is **in charge** of it all, has the **final word** on everything. **At the center** of all this, **Christ rules** the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is **Christ's body**, in which **he speaks and acts**, by which **he fills everything** with his presence.

### **Universe to Atom Slider Chart Link**

- I. Christ runs the universe – galaxies to governments (video)
  - a. Natural world – creation
    - i. At least 176 billion observable galaxies (Hubble Space Tele.)
    - ii. Galaxies
      1. Dwarf – smallest, only 10 million stars
      2. Spiral – hundreds of billions
        - a. Milky Way – 200 billion
        - b. Andromeda – 1 trillion
      3. Ellipticals – largest – 100 trillion stars
    - iii. Stars
      1. Our sun – one million Earths would fit inside
      2. Canis Majoris – largest known star
        - a. 5,000 LYs from Earth
        - b. 1,540 times the size of our sun
  - b. Atomic level
    - i. Electric charge: positive (protons) or negative (electrons) – basis for electric force
      1. Opposite charges attract, like charges repel
      2. Force weakens as the two charges get farther apart
      3. Explains what binds the electrons to the nucleus, but not what holds the nucleus together
    - ii. The strong force: holds the nucleus of the atom together, stronger than the electric force. Otherwise everything would disintegrate.
    - iii. Hebrews 1:3 (New Century Version) – The Son reflects the glory of God and shows exactly what God is like. **He holds everything together with his powerful word.**
  - c. Human history – rise and fall of kingdoms/nations/people groups
    - i. Acts 17:24-27 He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he

doesn't live in man-made temples, and human hands can't serve his needs – for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand **when they should rise and fall**, and he determined their boundaries. His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him – though he is not far from any one of us. (NLT)

ii. God has been working out His plan throughout human history, and is still at work today, unfolding His eternal purpose

d. **Nothing** is exempt from His rule

II. Not just now, but forever

a. Christ's rule is not passing away – He will never be superseded, He will never be surpassed or eclipsed

b. Daniel 2:44 The Message – But throughout the history of these kingdoms, the God of heaven will be building **a kingdom that will never be destroyed**, nor will this kingdom ever fall under the domination of another. In the end it will crush the other kingdoms and finish them off and **come through it all standing strong and eternal**. It will be like the stone cut from the mountain by the invisible hand that crushed the iron, the bronze, the ceramic, the silver, and the gold.

III. At the center (of all creation) – Christ rules the church

a. Every kingdom has a king – Christ Jesus! He is in charge and has the FINAL word on everything.

i. The concept of kingdom is foreign to us as people living and growing up in a democratic republic

ii. Everything belongs to the king

iii. The subjects are stewards of all that belongs to the king

iv. They are responsible to handle the king's property in such a way that brings increase to the kingdom

b. The church is not peripheral to the world (creation)

i. Escapist doctrine – effort of the enemy to move the church from its place of influence

ii. Victim mentality – moves the church into survival mode instead of conquest mode

iii. Matthew 25:14-30 Kingdom parable about investment

1. To one he gave 5, the next 2, the last 1

2. Two went to work, one buried the money

3. First two doubled their money and were invited into partnership with the master

4. The last hid the money and was rebuked

5. V 26-27 The master was furious. "That's a terrible waste to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest."

c. The world is peripheral to the church

- i. The church (you) is at the very center of God's plan and purpose throughout all of history and within all of creation
- ii. This is not a fallback position, but has always been God's intention
  - 1. In the VERY beginning - Genesis 1:28 God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!"
  - 2. Romans 8:19-21 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the **children of God** to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.
  - 3. Matthew 28:18-20 The Great Commission – make disciples of all nations!

IV. The church is Christ's body! (Invite the communion servers to prepare)

- a. We are inextricably joined to Him!
  - i. When we look at someone, we don't say, "Gee, there's John's body!" We say, "Hi, John!"
  - ii. The head CANNOT be separated from the body!
  - iii. We need to stop seeing ourselves as separate from each other and from the Lord, as if we are here on earth and He is far away in heaven.
    - 1. Over and over again in Scripture we are reminded that we are members of each other – what is mine is yours, and what is yours is mine
    - 2. Over and over again we are reminded that we are joined to the Lord. He is the head. We are the body. Altogether, we are one. When we show up, Jesus shows up!
- b. Jesus speaks through and acts through His body, just like you and I speak and act through our bodies.
  - i. My body responds to the direction it receives from my head. However, I don't think of myself as a head and a body. I think of myself as one complete whole.
  - ii. Ephesians 4:12 – 16 He (Christ) handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working withing Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for imposters. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love – like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. **His very breath and blood flow through us**, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.

V. Communion – celebrating the reality that we are His body, that His blood and breath flow through us, nourishing us toward healthy growth

- VI. His purpose is to fill everything in all creation with His presence!
- i. This He accomplishes through you and me, the church
  - ii. You are the means through which all creation will be filled with the presence of the Lord
  - iii. Wherever you are at any point in time, God's purpose in you is to fill that place and time with Christ's presence
  - iv. What does that look like for you in your life?
    1. On the job
    2. At home
    3. In your neighborhood
    4. At the mall
    5. At school/college