



**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Tuesday April 13, 2021**

**Scripture: Colossian 1:18-20**

**TITLE: Who Is Really In Charge?**

Who is in charge of the Church? Is it your pastor? Is it your superintendent? A bishop? The Pope? If you said any person but Jesus, you're wrong. Jesus is over the Church.

This week we are continuing in our pursuit of spiritual fitness. And if you're like me, you need a community that is also pursuing spiritual fitness, so we need to talk about the Church! The Church is the body of Christ. It's not a building but a people of sinners, saved by grace. But if we're not careful, we fall into a dangerous trap of falling in line, or even in love, with a church leader. We are called to trust but verify what is taught and embraced. How do we do this? We take it all back to the head of the Church: Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1 declares the supremacy of Christ. "Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.

<sup>19</sup> For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, <sup>20</sup> and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross." (Colossian 1:18-20, NLT)

According to Paul, Christ is the head of the church. But even more so, He is to be first place over everything because He is. The question is, will we recognize it? You see, we've got this problem today, where we over-hype and follow people without asking, "Should I follow this person? Should I believe what they said?" If you use social media today, you know that there are supposed, independent fact-checkers. We are to the same when it comes to the teaching of Scripture and the philosophy of church and church leaders.

It is true that God uses everyday people to lead the body of Christ in various capacities. I do the same here. But I know that I am not really in charge. My authority is a gift from God and is subject to my real boss, Jesus Christ. Everything we do as a ministry should be evaluated in light of Scripture. Everything I teach should be sifted through what the Bible actually says. It's the same for your church, your pastors, and your denominational leaders, if you have them.

The Church has always been up against the culture. The culture has continually wanted to cancel Christianity, but it won't work. Jesus said, "the gates of hell will not prevail." (Mat. 16:18c)

Christ is the head of the Church - not as an organization, but as a living organism. I love what one commentator said about this: "The church does not exist to meet the needs of its members or to ensure its institutional survival, but to fulfill the redemptive purpose of Christ, its head."

(<https://www.albanync.org/supremacy-in-christ/>)

So here's my challenge for you today: Give authority back over to Christ. Christ is head over everything: the universe, the Church, your church, your family, and your life. So surrender your control to the One who controls it all. Give your days, your hours, your moments to Him. When we live on purpose, for the purpose, we will win the day.