1. What is Christ’s relationship to the church? (Covered in “The Church as Organism – Part 1”)

Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV) ́I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1 Corinthians 12:12 (ESV) For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

2. What is the church’s relationship to Christ?

Just as the parts of the human body cannot function without the head, so the church is absolutely dependent on its head, Jesus Christ.

Christ is the head of the church!

Ephesians 1:22 (ESV) And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

- As Head, Christ is our Life Source

Ephesians 4:15-16 (ESV) ́Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Paul reminds the Ephesians that:
(a) the only way to become spiritual adults is to recognize their absolute reliance on Jesus to supply their life, and
(b) His likeness is the goal toward which they are growing. Therefore, Jesus is the head into whom and from whom we grow.

John 15:4-5 (ESV) ́Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
How does the church remain attached to the vine?

What are the lifelines that keep the church nourished?

➢ Public Worship

  Ephesians 1:12 (ESV) so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

  For worship to be a life-giving experience, there must be a sense of awe among the people of God.

➢ Private Worship

• As Head, Christ is our Ultimate Authority

The church’s relationship to Christ is to accept obediently and fulfill faithfully the particular role that God has assigned to each of us through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus as head of the church means that He arranges life in the body.

  1 Corinthians 12:18 (ESV) But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

  1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV) All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

The church functions as an organism when those who make up the body of Christ seek obediently to fulfill the role God has assigned to them.