**Healthy Church Series:**

**The Source of all Church Healthy is Knowing and Obeying Jesus Christ.**

**Rev. Thomas Parrish**

***15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16For by  him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:15-20***

**What do Healthy Churches know and live for that make them the effective voice of truth for the world?**

Church health has one answer, one source, one point and that is **Jesus Christ Alone!!!!**

1. **BIG BARRIERS TO CHURCH GROWTH**
2. **Diminished faith 2) Ministry over Strategy 3) Inward focused 4) Programs over people**

**5) Slipping from relevance 6) Underdeveloped leaders 7) Jesus is sidelined in all the busyness**

**HEALTHY CHURCHES MAKE JESUS THEIR ONE AND ONLY PRIORITY.**

## Ten Examples of Church Mission Statements.

## [Calvary Chapel (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)](http://www.calvaryftl.org/): Making Disciples [Westover Hills (San Antonio, TX)](https://westoverhills.church/): Making New, Making Great [The Rock (San Diego, CA)](http://www.sdrock.com/): Save, Equip, and Send  [Highpoint Church (Memphis, TN)](http://highpointmemphis.com/): Love God, Love People, Make Disciples [The Church of the Resurrection UMC (Leawood, KS)](http://www.cor.org/): To Know, Love and Serve God [Celebration Church (Jacksonville, FL)](http://www.celebration.org/): Leading people to experience a God-First Life [Southeast Christian Church (Louisville, KY)](http://www.southeastchristian.org/): Connecting people to Jesus and one another [Red Rock Church (Littleton, CO)](http://www.redrockschurch.com/): We exist to make Heaven more crowded [Missio Dei Church (Cincinnati, OH)](http://mdcincy.org/): Establish and multiply gospel-centered, city focused, church communities [Fellowship Church (Grapevine, TX)](http://www.fellowshipchurch.com/): Reach Up, Reach Out, and Reach In

A close-up of a target with a dart

Description automatically generated**Jesus Must be the Bottom Line of EVERYTHING we do.**

Colossians 1:15-20 teaches that Jesus is the point from which all things are **directed** and to which all things are **focused.**

**5 SPECIFIC THINGS THAT RECOGNIZE JESUS AS THE FOCUS OF LIFE AND ETERNITY.**

**1) “HE IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD” (V. 15A).**

**There are** [***4 Ways in Which Jesus Is the Image of God***](https://dulinsgrovechurch.org/thebody/2018/09/20/four-ways-in-which-jesus-is-the-image-of-god/)**). A: Jesus is the Exact Manifestation of the Trinity:** God The Father, God The Son And God The Holy Spirit! Just as Jesus told Philip: When you see me (Jesus) you’ve seen the father as well. In other words: There is no separation between Jesus and God the Father and God the H.S.

### B: Jesus is the prefect Representation That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life …– 1 John 1:1

### C: Jesus is the exact Resemblance Closely associated with the idea of Jesus being the representation of God is His resemblance. Jesus being the image of the Godhead means that He is the perfect resemblance of the Trinity. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. – Hebrews 1:3

### D: Jesus Is The Total Voice And Communication of the Godhead. Jesus is the Trinity’ clearest, most accurate, authoritative, and powerful communication to the world. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. … And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.– John 1:1, 14

**2) HE IS “THE FIRSTBORN OF ALL CREATION” (V. 15B).** Everything is beneath Jesus in value and glory, as in ***verse 16: “For by him all things were created … all things were created through him and for him.”***

**3) HE “IS BEFORE ALL THINGS” (V. 17).** He is the rhyme and reason for all things, ***“and in him all things hold together.” There is power in the name of Jesus.* *The day is coming where “every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”***

**4) “He is the head of the body, the church” (v. 18a).** Jesus is the origin, the source, the commander of the church. ***“holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God” (Colossians 2:19).***

**Here at St. Paul’s I have two major foundations I live, teach, preach and will die for these truths: A Major council or congregational vote in any decision does not alone determine the will of Jesus. B. What does is when we take time to earnestly pray and seek the kind of Jesus thus resulting in unanimity in decision making none of us has the mind of Jesus.**

**.5) HE IS “THE FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD” (V. 18B). *In John 11: 25Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.***

**Finally in Colossians 1:18b Paul affirms that Jesus is the “firstborn” from the dead. Paul is referring to a sequence.** Jesus was the **first one to be resurrected.**

**What is Paul’s point?** Verse 18: ***“that in everything [Jesus] might be preeminent. ”*Jesus is supreme, first, the center – and we must live accordingly.** This must be the reference point from which we understand everything else.

**•Healthy Churches are focused on Jesus: •Healthy churches know this risen Jesus as a living Lord who is present right now. •They know that Jesus is the one and only savior of the universe and have no hesitation telling this truth. •They know that by faith in him alone they have ALREADY passed from death to life. •They deeply love and serve one another out of thankfulness to Jesus for all he had done. •In this knowing their become his effective voice in the. Church, in the community, in the schools, in the courts, in the athletic stadium and in the media. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN THE FUTURE-WE WILL STAY HEALTHY BY FOCUSING TOTALLY ON JESUS AND HIM ALONE!**