

So God raised him to the highest place. God made his name greater than every other name so that every knee will bow to the name of Jesus—everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. And everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and bring glory to God the Father. (Philippians 2:9–11 NCV)

Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. (John 13:3 NLT)

This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. (Galatians 1:1 NLT)

Would you agree that things function better when they are in proper alignment? The base of the skull sits atop cervical vertebra number 1, the atlas. The atlas sits atop the axis, and every subsequent cervical vertebra sits atop the one below it. This alignment scheme is replicated through the thoracic, lumbar, sacral, and coccygeal vertebrae. Malalignment, on the other hand, runs the gamut from painful in the stress fracture of spondylolysis (caused by excessive lumbar lordosis) to dysfunctional in spondylolisthesis (when a fracture allows part of a lumbar vertebra to slide forward) to disastrous in a cervical fracture-dislocation (when, as a result of a high energy collision in an automobile or sports activity, an unstable spine impinges the spinal cord). Indeed disrupted alignment in each of these orthopaedic examples leads to pathology.

Similar pathology results when the life structure God offers us is out of alignment. I am quite certain you're glad that ultimate authority—the privilege to be aligned above everything else—hasn't been granted to me. That position goes to Jesus. There's also a good reason that you won't read my writings in the Bible: because God didn't put me in the slot that went to the apostle Paul. When we all recognize our place, aligned under Jesus, who is aligned under God, life is upright, stable, and functional, just like a spinal column fit together with well aligned vertebrae. So, let's realign our spiritual spine.

—Jeff Russell

Orthopaedics

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