

The Centrality of Christ

Colossians 1:15-22

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- 15. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation;**
- 16. because by Him everything was created, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.**
- 17. He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.**

18. He is also the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything.

19. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him,

20. and through Him to reconcile everything to Himself by making peace through the blood of His cross—whether things on earth or things in heaven.

21. And you were once alienated and hostile in mind because of your evil actions.

22. But now He has reconciled you by His physical body through His death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before Him

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Colossians 1:15-22

8 Ways of Identifying Christ

A blue comet streaks across a dark blue, starry night sky. The comet's head is bright and glowing, with a long, faint tail trailing behind it. The background is filled with numerous small, white stars of varying brightness, creating a sense of depth and vastness.

1. The Visible Image of the Invisible God

- **Vs. 15 “He is the image of the invisible God”**
- **The invisible God expressing Himself in a physical, tangible, visible way**
- **Not just a symbol or a representation of God, but God expressing Himself**

1. The Visible Image of the Invisible God

- **Vs. 15 “He is the image of the invisible God”**
- **The invisible God expressing Himself in a physical, tangible, visible way**
- **Jesus is the perfect manifestation of God. To see what God is like, we must look at Jesus. He perfectly represents God to men in a form which they can see and know and understand.**
—William Barclay

2. The Uncreated Creator

- **Vs. 15-16 “He is... the firstborn over all creation; because by Him everything was created, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”**

2. The Uncreated Creator

- **Vs. 15-16** “He is... the **firstborn** over all creation; because by Him everything was created, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”

“Firstborn” – not about birth order, but about rank. “Israel is My firstborn son” Exodus 4:22

2. The Uncreated Creator

- **Vs. 15-16 “He is... the firstborn over all creation; because by Him everything was created, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”**
- **He is the creator, not only of all earthly things, but of all the angels and demons, regardless of rank**

2. The Uncreated Creator

- **Vs. 15-16 “He is... the firstborn over all creation; because by Him everything was created, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”**
- **“For Him” - The universe was created by God as a theater for the glory of Christ**

3. He has Seniority

- **Vs. 17 “He is before all things”**
- **Because He was here before there was anything else, He comes first.**

4. Sustainer of the Universe

- **Vs. 17 “By Him all things hold together”**
- **Hebrews 1:3 “He sustains all things by His powerful word”**

5. Head of the Church

- **Vs. 18 “He is also the head of the body, the church”**

6. Prototype of the Resurrection

- **Vs. 18 “He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything.”**

6. Prototype of the Resurrection



Ford Focus Hybrid Fuel Cell Vehicle combines a high voltage battery with the hydrogen-powered fuel cell engine to help increase performance and efficiency while still providing zero emissions.

6. Prototype of the Resurrection

- **Vs. 18 “He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything.”**
- **When Jesus rose from the dead, it began**

7. The Fullness of God in a Body

- **Vs. 19 “For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him”**
- **2:9 “For in Him the entire fullness of God’s nature dwells bodily”**

8. Reconciler of a World at War

- **Vs. 19-21 “God was pleased... through Him to reconcile everything to Himself by making peace through the blood of His cross— whether things on earth or things in heaven. And you were once alienated and hostile in mind because of your evil actions. But now He has reconciled you by His physical body through His death...”**

3 Implications for Our Lives

A bright blue comet streaks across a dark blue, starry night sky. The comet's head is a glowing, bright blue sphere on the left, with a long, thin, blue tail extending towards the right. The background is filled with numerous small, white stars of varying brightness, creating a sense of depth and vastness in space.

1. Blameless Before Christ

- **Vs. 22** “But now He has reconciled you by His physical body through His death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before Him.”

2. Christ in You

- **Vs. 27 “God wanted to make known to those among the Gentiles, the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you...”**

3. Mature in Christ

- **Vs. 28 “We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”**
- **The gospel is not a system, hierarchy, or set of regulations. It is the person and work of Jesus —New American Commentary**

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