

The Pre-eminence of Christ in Creation

Col. 1:15-17

v. 15-20 appear to be an early hymn that was sung in the church.

Observations from William Hendricksen

1. “He is” begins each subsection – v. 15 & 18
2. “the first-born” – v. 15 & 18
3. “by him, through him, for him, in him” v. 16, 17, 19, 20
4. “heaven and earth” v. 16 & 20

I. He is Pre-eminent in Revealing God to Us

Image of the invisible God (eikon) *a likeness, i.e. (lit.) statute, profile, or (fig.) representation, resemblance:--image.*

God is invisible.

God is incomprehensible.

Christ reveals God to man.

II. He is Pre-eminent in Revealing God to Us because He Is God.

Nicean Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

John 14:9a; 2 Cor 4:4; Phil 2:6

Why can we say if we have seen Him we have seen the Father?

The Father is invisible.

The Father can't be seen.

Because he is the image of the invisible God.

III. He is the First-born over all Creation.

First-born is a word that can be used to mean superior in rank

Jeremiah 31:9 -- *For I am a Father to Israel,
And Ephraim is My firstborn.*

Exodus 4:21-23

v. 15 – first-born over all creation – means Jesus is Lord of all!

IV. He is Pre-eminent as the Creator of All Things

v. 17 -- He made everything.

By Him everything consists and stays together.

There is obvious order in the universe.

How can there be design without a designer?