

A HYMN TO THE PREMINENT CHRIST

Colossians 1:15-20

STRUCTURE OF COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

- It is in a form of a hymn.
- It has two strophes:
 - I. Christ is preeminent in Creation (15-17)
 - II. Christ is preeminent in Redemption (18-20)

I. CHRIST IS PREMINENT IN CREATION

- Christ is God (15)
- Christ is Creator (16)
- Christ is Sustainer (17)

A. CHRIST IS GOD

- Jesus Christ is the perfect representation of God.


JOHN CALVIN

“We must be careful not to look for Him anywhere else, for apart from Christ whatever offers itself to us in the name of God will turn out to be an idol.”

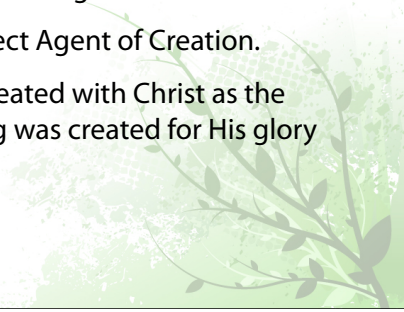
A. CHRIST IS GOD

- Jesus Christ is the perfect representation of God.
- Paul is refuting in this verse the Gnostic teaching that Christ is not God.
- The word “firstborn” is a term of rank.
- Christ is preeminent in rank. He is **above** all creation.


I. CHRIST IS PREEMINENT IN CREATION

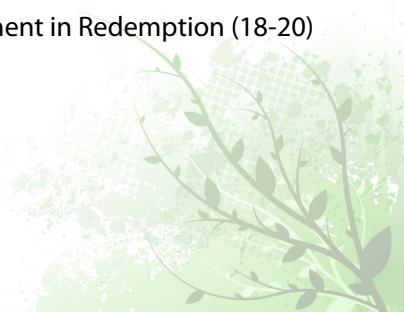
- Christ is God (15)
 - Christ is Creator (16)
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B. CHRIST IS CREATOR

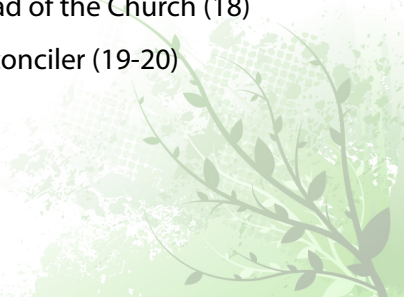
- Christ created **all** things.
 - Christ is the direct Agent of Creation.
 - Everything is created with Christ as the goal. Everything was created for His glory and pleasure.
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I. CHRIST IS PREEMINENT IN CREATION

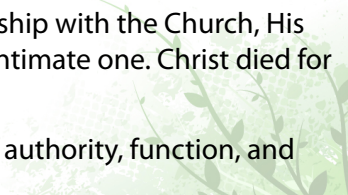
- Christ is God (15)
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- I. Christ is preeminent in Creation (15-17)
 - II. Christ is preeminent in Redemption (18-20)
- 

II. CHRIST IS PREEMINENT IN REDEMPTION

- Christ is the Head of the Church (18)
 - Christ is the Reconciler (19-20)
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A. CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

- Christ's relationship with the Church, His body, is a very intimate one. Christ died for His Church.
 - "Head" denotes authority, function, and life.
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He is the head of all the saints; and he is a living head, and so a living head as that he tells us that 'because he lives we shall live also.' He communicates spiritual life to all that are his. In him is the fountain of our life; which is therefore said to be 'hid with him in God.' And this life he gives unto his saints by quickening of them by his Spirit; and he continues it unto them by the supplies of living grace which he communicates unto them...The end of all

communications of grace and supplies of life from this living and blessed head is the increase of the whole body and every member of it, and the edifying of itself in love.

~ John Owen

II. CHRIST IS PREEMINENT IN REDEMPTION

- Christ is the Head of the Church (18)
- Christ is the Reconciler (19-20)

B. CHRIST IS THE RECONCILER

- Christ, as fully God, initiated the reconciliation. (19)
- The means of reconciliation is Christ's death. (20)

APPLICATION

- Embrace the preeminent Christ.
- Exalt the preeminent Christ.
- Execute your sin.