



Grace Life Church

of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Colossians 1:15-20

The Supremacy of Jesus Christ

Part 2

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Matthew 16:13-15

*Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**”*

Colossians 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For 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. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:15-20

18 And 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. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:15a Review

In v15-20 we will answer “Who is Jesus, in relation to God? Creation? Church?”

V15a He is the image of the invisible God

Isaiah 46:9 *For I am God, and there is no other, I am God and there is none like me*

Context (Immediate, Colossians, Testimony of all Scripture)

- V16 An attribute of God attributed to Jesus (Creator)
- V19 *For in him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell*
- 2:9 *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily*
- **Matthew 1:23** *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).*
- **Heb 1:3** *He is the radiance of the glory of God & the exact imprint of his nature*
- **John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. V14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...V18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.*
- **John 10:30** *I and the Father are one*
- **John 14:6-10** *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” 8Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?*
- Jesus is the image of the invisible God, because Jesus is God, and in seeing Him we see God

V15b the firstborn of all creation

What does Paul mean by “*The firstborn of all creation*”?

- Historical Context: Chronology or position/rank
- Does Jesus have a beginning? Is he created? Is he part of the creation?
- We answer this question by looking at the context

Context:

- 15a *Image of the invisible God* is referring to Jesus’ deity
 - If Jesus is God, he cannot have a beginning or be part of creation
- v16 *For 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*
 - If Paul intends to teach us that Jesus is part of creation, he contradicts himself in v16 (“All” emphasized twice, careful in description heavens/earth, visible/invisible)
 - Many who say Jesus is part of creation say he is an angel (angelic)
 - End v16 *all things were created through Him and for Him*
 - Jesus created ALL things (heaven/earth) and they are for Him
- 15b is sandwiched in between two clarifying statements as to why Jesus would have “rights/rank” over all creation
 - The rights and privileges a firstborn would have, Jesus has over all creation
 - This understanding works with the flow thoughts of the text (where chronology, and Jesus being a created being breaks the flow of thought)

V15b the firstborn of all creation

What does Paul mean by “*The firstborn of all creation*”?

Psalm 89:27 *And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.*

The Bible never speaks of Jesus being created, but it does speak to Jesus entering into creation (humanity).

Isaiah 9:6 *For to us a **child is born**, to us a **son is given**; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*

Hebrews 1:1-2 *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, **whom he appointed the heir of all things**, through whom also he created the world.*

The firstborn of all creation: From the immediate context, the use of “firstborn” in Scripture, and other parallel text, we allow the clear to give understanding to the unclear, and we arrive at the understanding that when Paul says “firstborn of all creation” he means that Jesus, being God, has the rights, the rule of all things, and is the heir of all things.

V15 Jesus is God, the ruler and heir of all things

16 For by him all things were created, in heaven & on earth, visible & invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him & for him.

- ***By Him all things were created:***
- ***John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
- ***Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*
- Without an understanding of the triune God (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit), these statements do not make sense, and they are blasphemous
- In our spiritual warfare struggles, isn't it comforting to know that our Redeemer created (and thus has power and authority) over all thrones, dominions, rules, authorities?
- ***All things were created through Him and for Him***
- ***Romans 11:36** For from Him, through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever and ever AMEN*

V17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

If Jesus Christ, being God, created all things, it stands to reason that he preceded all things.

He is before all things:

- **John 8:57-59** *So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” 58Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” 59So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.*
- **John 17:5** *And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*
- **Revelation 22:13** *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*

and in him all things hold together:

- **Hebrews 1:3** *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.*
- Job chapter 38-42

Summary

Jesus Christ is God, He is the rightful ruler and heir of all things, He created all things, All things were created for Him, He is before all things, and all things are held together by Him

- Do we see the inconsistency of Jesus being “a part” of our lives (add-on)
- The only reasonable and Biblically conclusion is Jesus Christ is life
 - If I have everything, except Jesus, I have nothing
 - If I have nothing, except Jesus, I have everything
- **Philippians 1:21** For to me to live is Christ, & to die is gain.
- Jesus Christ is preeminent in ALL things