

Colossians: The Supremacy of Christ

1:9-14 Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Maturity

This week and next week will be a two-part lesson which jumps headlong into the supremacy of Christ. In this study we will discuss verses 9-20; next week we will finish out the chapter. *(Tony's note: My son Lucas wrote this study.)*

Read verses 15-20 in totality, then we'll go back and discuss them individually.

Verse 15a

To the best of your ability, define what it is to be the image of something. Likewise, define the invisibility of God. *Feel free to use a dictionary if one is available.*

GOING DEEPER

How does your definition of the invisibility of God compare to that found in Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology* seen below?

"God's invisibility means that God's total essence, all of His spiritual being, will never be able to be seen by us, yet God still shows Himself to us through visible created things."

Now take this idea and insert Jesus as the image of the invisible God. What are your initial reactions and thoughts?

Discuss the ways Jesus revealed God to man. Read John 1:18 and 14:9 for more insight.

Verse 15b

What does it mean to be the firstborn over all creation? Some translations say that Jesus the firstborn **of** creation, which could imply that Jesus was a created being. Other translations say that Jesus is the firstborn **over** all creation showing His preeminence and authority over what He has created.

What types of authority and inheritance did the firstborn sons have in Jesus' day? How does this relate to Jesus and creation?

Read Hebrews 1:2-4 and discuss its direct relation to Paul's statement in Colossians 1:15-17. Also take note of Hebrews 1:4 and the inheritance Jesus received. (You could also look up Philippians 2:5-11 to take this further.)

Verse 16

Is there anything that was created outside of Jesus?

Why was all of creation created, according to Colossians 1:16?

Verse 17 (Read in a few different translations)

How are all things held together by Jesus? See Hebrews 1:3 also. This is an amazing truth that our naturalistic worldview has caused us to forget.

One commentator says the definition of what it means to hold something together is: **to prevent from falling into complete chaos**. How does this definition make you feel when you think of Jesus' grace to humanity in His holding all of creation together—even when creation rebels against Him?

Verse 18

Verse 18 makes two declarations about who Jesus is:

- He is the head of the Church
- He is firstborn from the dead

Discuss what these two mean for our daily lives.

Verse 18 ends by telling us that Jesus has preeminence in all things. Read this phrase in a few different translations. Does He have this supremacy in your life? What does that supremacy look like...or what **should** it look like?

Verses 19-20

End this week's lesson in preparation for next week by reading and discussing Isaiah 53:3-6 & 10 and its relation to what you have learned in Colossians about the supreme Christ who was appointed by God, not with hesitancy but with good pleasure, to reconcile all things to Himself by His blood on the Cross.