

HOME CHURCH

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

Colossians 1:15-20

1. What does it mean to be the *head* of something? What do you expect from someone who is designated the *head*?
2. Re-read the Bible passage. This is one of the earliest Christian poems to show the centre of Christianity. How would you summarize what it is saying?
3. How was/is Jesus supreme in creation 15-17?
4. How was/is Jesus supreme in redemption 18-20?
5. This passage has lots of behaviour implications within it. What does it say about creation, others, spiritual and literally sickness/healing? What does it say about the value of the cosmos?
6. CS Lewis wrote, "Nature never taught me that there exists a God of glory and of infinite majesty. I had to learn that in other ways. But nature gave the word *glory* a meaning for me." Think of the difference between impersonal creation and a personal Creator who also creates community. Can nature be "church" and what happens if we make it our god?

Other thoughts?

PRAYER:

MAY 10, 2020

COLOSSIANS

THE CHRIST HYMN

Why has the world not destroyed itself over and over again? Why are we not driven to despair by the ideology and identity divisions we are taught to cling to? What keeps this show moving forward even with glimmers of hope? The Creator of it all is not done with us. This Sunday, we explore an ancient poem/song that pulls back the curtain. It's not over, it's moving onward!

Colossians 1:15-20 (CEB Bible)

Hymn about Christ's work

- ¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God,
the one who is first over all creation,
- ¹⁶ Because all things were created by him:
both in the heavens and on the earth,
the things that are visible and the things that are invisible.
Whether they are thrones or powers,
or rulers or authorities,
all things were created through him and for him.
- ¹⁷ He existed before all things,
and all things are held together in him.
- ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church,
who is the beginning,
the one who is firstborn from among the dead
so that he might occupy the first place in everything.
- ¹⁹ Because all the fullness of God was pleased to live in him,
²⁰ and he reconciled all things to himself through him—
whether things on earth or in the heavens.
He brought peace through the blood of his cross.

BIG IDEA: Jesus is the "all-ness." -Nijay Gupta

OUTLINE

1.0 SUPREME IN CREATION (1:15-17)

1.1 The Image and the Firstborn (1:15)

1.2 The Reason: Creator (1:16)

1.3 The Recapitulation (1:17)

2.0 SUPREME IN REDEMPTION (1:18-20)

2.1 Anticipation (1:18a)

2.2 The Beginning and Firstborn (1:18b)

2.3 The Reason: Redeemer (1:19-20)

1.0 SUPREME IN CREATION 1:15-17

1.1 The Image and Firstborn 1:15

- *Colossians 1:15*

1.2 The Reason: Creator 1:16

- *Colossians 1:16*

1.3 Recapitulation 1:17

- *Colossians 1:17*

2.0. SUPREME IN REDEMPTION

2.1 Anticipation 1:18a

- *Colossians 1:18a* Head, body, church

2.2 The Beginning and the Firstborn 1:18b

- *Colossians 1:18b*

- Three more descriptions beyond the church now: the beginning, firstborn in the resurrection, so that he might have supremacy

- Jesus really died. This text implies that before Easter Sunday, he was for a moment "among the dead," what we now call Holy Saturday (*Matthew 28:51-53*).

2.3 The Reason: Redeemer 1:19-20

- *Colossians 1:19* *hoti* for/because of verse 18 God's fullness dwells in him.

- *Colossians 1:20* One of the great verses in the Bible

- Reconciliation and Peacemaking:

- Humans are at war with God, deceived by demonic/dark powers.

- Through our behaviours we align with evil and the powers of this age...

"All things"

Question & Response

Next Steps/Final Thoughts