

COLOSSIANS

A B O V E A L L



COLOSSIANS: ABOVE ALL

Paul writes to the church at Colossae to show that Jesus Christ is greater than Caesar and what they already have in Christ Jesus is sufficient and supreme. Jesus truly is above all other rulers. His kingdom reign is above all governments. His work is above all other accomplishments. And all who are in Christ can live a life above all that the world offers. And that greater life can be experienced and expressed in everything we do, everywhere, every day.

PART 3: FIND HIS FINGERPRINTS

Read the text: Colossians 1:15-23

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 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. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 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. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard,

which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

In a context where Caesar is called the son of God, creator of the empire, savior of Rome, and the one who is holding Rome together, AND his image is plastered on absolutely everything, Paul writes a subversive and even treasonous poem (15-20) declaring Jesus to be the image of the invisible God through whom all things were created and for whom all things were created, including everything in the Roman empire. Jesus is before all things and in him all things in the cosmos are held together. He is both the firstborn of all creation and the firstborn of the dead so that in everything he is preeminent. In him the fullness of God dwelt and all things are reconciled through him, making true peace by the blood of his cross.

Caesar offered an “outside peace” that was really a thin veneer of peace... peace that only worked for those with power and position. Jesus, on the other hand, makes true peace through His blood...an inner peace that transcends every circumstance. And when we experience this reconciliation, we become the aroma of Christ, helping our world experience the peace that Christ brings.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. Pastor Donald spoke of “outside peace” and “inside peace.” What’s the difference between these?
2. When was the last time you experienced “inside peace”...a peace that transcends circumstances? Where were you? What were you doing?
3. According to Paul’s writing above, how does Jesus give “inside peace”? How do you get to experience that?

4. Jesus is the image of the invisible God. The fullness of God dwells in Him. We are the aroma of Jesus Christ. Do you think people “smell” and experience Jesus through your life? Why or why not?

5. As you think about your specific place and season of life? What does it look like to be the aroma of Christ? In your home? In your work? In your parenting? In your singleness? Think about one tangible way you can help others experience Jesus in one area of your life this week. Share with each other.