

Church Planting and the Supremacy of Christ

Colossians 1:15-20

CrossBridge Church

March 29, 2015

Introduction: It's All About Jesus, Not Church Planting

- Church planting or missions should NOT be the primary object of this church or any church. The most crucial issue that the church has before it, isn't church planting or missions, it is the centrality and the supremacy of Christ
- How can a church who is not in awe of the greatness and majesty of Christ take on the daunting task of making disciples of all men and women, men and women in NY, but also all the way down in Texas? How could they herald, "For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods."? (Psa 96:4)

Jesus is Lord of Creation (vs. 15-17)

- **Jesus' Identity as Lord of Creation**
 - **Image of the Invisible God** – Jesus is God revealing Himself on a level that we can understand. The fact that He came to us on a level we can understand tells us that He wants us to know Him!
 - **Firstborn Over Creation** – Jesus stands over creation as the Preeminent One! The One who stands over creation, came into creation for His glory and our good!
- **Jesus' Actions as Lord of Creation**
 - **Created In Jesus** – All things were created within the sphere (locus) of Jesus. He had His hand in every aspect of creation.
 - **Created Through Jesus** – Jesus was the instrument of creation. The vastness of creation speaks of the greater vastness of its Creator, Jesus!
 - **Created For Jesus** – Jesus is the goal and purpose of creation. All of creation is a sign pointing back to Him! Jesus is the reason for EVERY season!
 - **Sustained by Jesus** – All of creation holds together b/c Jesus wills it. The moment Jesus stops willing our existence is the moment that all time and space collapses on itself and ceases.

Jesus is Lord of New Creation (Redemption) (vs. 18-20)

- **Jesus' Identity as Lord of New Creation**
 - **Head of the Church** – As the head, Jesus is our guiding authority, our foundation for unity, and our spiritual nourishment.
 - **The Beginning** – Nothing goes beyond Jesus or stretches behind Him. He is the foundation, the sovereign authority, as all of life, creation, existence, and salvation find their impetus in Him. There is none greater.
 - **Firstborn from the Dead** – Jesus overcame death, sin, and Satan, and now He lives as the Supreme One who guarantees our resurrection! His eternal life guarantees ours!
 - **Preeminent in All Things** – There isn't anything that Jesus does not tower over in all of His excellencies and beauty.
 - **Fullness of God was Pleased to Dwell** - Jesus is God! He isn't partially God or mostly God, rather the FULLNESS of God dwells within Him. He is not "God 1a" or "God Jr." He is God, Very God. All that God the Father is, Jesus is, as the FULLNESS of God was pleased to dwell within Him!
- **Jesus' Actions as the Lord of New Creation**
 - **Reconciles All Things to Himself** – Christ will bring all those who have placed their faith in Him into a fully restored relationship with God. The narrowed context of salvation (vs. 18) clues us in on the fact that "all things" is speaking within the sphere of the church.

Application – How Does This All Relate to Church Planting?

What gets you excited in life? The big game? Home renovations? Family nights? Unexpected bonus from work? These are all great things, but what is more thrilling in this life than Jesus? Is anything more awe inspiring or satisfying than Jesus? No! He is supreme. All the good gifts in life we enjoy are mere shadows that were cast by His greater goodness.

What do we do with what excites us? We share! We post pics to facebook or instagram, we call/text friends. Why? We want others to experience our joy with us and in doing so our joy is increased!

If Jesus is supreme and our greatest joy, He should be what we seek to passionately share. We must plant churches. We must send out men and women to establish bodies that can reach their communities. How will you join in? Will you give? Will you go?