



## Pray

What verses or phrases from this passage can lead you to see God's involvement and activity in your own life?

How can Christ's uniqueness impact the way you pray for yourself and others?

Considering this passage, how will you pray for our church? Note the priority of the church in God's global redemptive plans in verse 18.



## In Him All Things Hold Together | Colossians 1:15-23

Missions Week Study Guide | for sermon on 10/25/2020



## Introduction

Have you ever used Gorilla Glue before? It is like super glue on steroids. It has incredible power and strength to create a strong bond for whatever project you are facing or repairing.

Well, Christ is stronger than a glue made by human hands (obviously), but a comparison can be made for our understanding and application. Christ has incredible power. In fact, Paul says, "All things were created through him and for him. And he (Jesus) is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church." The passage continues with jaw-dropping description of Christ, the church, and the hope of the gospel. The gospel has changed us. The gospel is central to the book of Colossians. The gospel is what spurs us on in missions.

*"Colossians is about the universe's deep reality, despite appearances to the contrary. It is worldview-shaping, mind-expanding, and game-changing. The stronger our grasp of its message, the greater our open-mouthed astonishment will become. If our first response to the teaching of this letter is not "Wow!" we are missing something. If Jesus really is the cosmic Lord, then how can we not dedicate every fiber of our being to him and his service?" – Mark Meynell*



## Overview

**Context:** Colossians 1 reveals that the Lord Jesus Christ is Lord over all creation. Paul, the author, is directly refuting several misconceptions about Jesus Christ, specifically in the first chapter. Some believed that God would not have come to earth as a true human being in bodily form. Paul tells us that Christ is the image – the exact likeness – of God, and is himself God. Jesus is not only God but reigns over all as God. When we see clearly that King Jesus is Lord over everything, nothing can ever be the same again.

### Structure: The Supremacy of Christ

- I. Christ is Lord of creation (vv. 15-17)
- II. Christ is Lord of redemption (vv. 18-20)
- III. Christ is Lord! We are a new creation (vv. 21-23)



## Engage

1. Notice the *universals* Paul uses in verses 15-20.
  - v. 15 – the firstborn over **all** creation
  - v. 16 – for in him **all** things were created...**all** things have been created through him and for him.
  - v. 17 – He is before **all** things, and in him **all** things hold together
  - v. 18 – so that in **everything** he might have supremacy
  - v. 19- For God was pleased to have **all** his fullness dwell in him
  - v. 20 – and through him to reconcile to himself **all** things.

Not only is the message about Christ, but also about his authority over you and me. Paul is claiming a message of absolute relevance to every person in every nation in every era.

**Let that sink in for a moment.** This message is relevant as we think about our everyday encounters whether it is with a worker on the T, the bagger at the Big Y, the barista down the street, or in responding to the latest tweet. How might Christ's authority and superiority impact the way we speak of Jesus with others?

2. Why would people find some of the statements in verses 15-20 outrageous? What might you say in response to someone who thought these claims were crazy?
3. In verse 15, Paul proclaims that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. This is true, but hard to articulate to others. How would you explain to someone what Christians believe about Jesus? Why do we believe Jesus is divine?
4. Jesus is the sustainer. How should this knowledge change the way we view both Jesus and the universe we live in?
5. Could you explain in a simple way to an unbeliever a reason why Jesus had to become a living human being in order to save us?  
*Hint: See verse 18.*
6. How does Jesus' death on the cross make peace (verse 20)? What do people find offensive about this claim? How is this claim good news?
7. In verses 21-23, Paul speaks about who we were before we came to Christ and how we have changed. What has changed in your own life since you became a follower of Jesus? What steps do you need to take to remain "established and firm" in your faith?
8. How does verses 21-23 impact the way you think and talk about the gospel?
9. How does Jesus' unique identity impact the way in which we encounter other worldviews?