

“Who is Jesus”

Colossians 1 v15-18

Scripture Ref: John 14:9; Eph 5:23; John 10:15; 2 Cor 2:15-16

1. Who is Jesus Christ to you?

- a. Seems like a silly question to ask in church, but in fact the question might have a hundred answers – whether you ask a Christian in church or just a person on the street.
- b. If you asked people who Jesus is to them, you may get answers such as ...
 - i. A myth – a teacher – an influential man – the founder of the Christian religion...
 - ii. Other religions would say he was a teacher, or one of many prophets, or the brother of Satan, or one of many “Christs” who have come...
- c. But if you asked the Christian, would you not expect to get a solid answer?
 - i. Maybe – maybe not
 - ii. The question that poses itself today is “Who is Jesus to YOU?”
 - iii. Is He your guide? Your teacher? Your role model?
 - iv. Is He prominent in your life?
 - v. Or... does He have *preeminence*?

2. This is where we pick up in Col 1, where Jesus Christ is being presented as preeminent

- a. probably one of the most profound and direct statements in the bible about Jesus Christ... and who He is to us.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

3. The false teachers of Paul’s day taught a confusing array of doctrines about Jesus, life, and holiness

- a. Many taught that all matter, including the human body, was evil.
- b. They taught that Jesus did not have a physical body, because that would have made Him corrupt

- c. And they believed that since your body was evil, that you either had to enslave it – or fulfill it!
 - d. IOW – the teachings drove people in one of two directions – self-denial or self-indulgence!
4. One group felt that in order to be spiritual, a person must refrain from touching this, or eating that, and all kinds of regulations would be drawn up...
 - a. Yet another group would say that since material things are evil, and we have a material body, in a material world (along with Madonna)
 - b. The thing to do is to allow you body to fulfill it's carnal lusts, and that will keep your spirit pure.
5. We might think today – “*who cares what they thought back then, that doesn't have anything to do with me now. Or does it?*”
 - a. Indeed, I would say to you that both of these false doctrines are practiced widely in the church today.
 - b. Those of the ‘self-denial’ group, that in some form or fashion see the path of true ‘holiness and spirituality’ to be found in strict adherence to the “do’s and don’ts” of the bible.
 - c. And on the other side of the spectrum, of the self-indulgent group, who think nothing of allowing sin and compromise into their lives...
 - i. Rationalizing “hey that’s just my weakness, God loves me, and besides I really care for her/him”
6. In both of these instances, the problem lies not in having the *wrong rulebook*, but having a *wrong perspective of Jesus*.
 - a. IOW – having Jesus as a part of your life, something you do on Sunday, being prominent in your life...
 - b. But does Jesus have the role in your life that reflects who He truly is? Does He have *preeminence* in your life?
7. See, there is a big difference in giving something *prominence* and *preeminence* in your life
 - a. Prominence means that it’s important to you – perhaps you like to surf, or you really follow a certain sports team
 - b. Its really-really important to you – has a big place in your life – but it’s not the most important thing in your life.
 - c. *Preeminence*, on the other hand, means that something holds the #1 spot in your life. It’s place is above everything else. SUPREME
 - d. FACT: How you live your life is affected by what has preeminence in your life.
 - e. It affects your values and morals, your decisions
8. For the Christian – this is a very important question...

I He existed before all things

He is the **image** of the **invisible** God, the **firstborn** over all creation.

9. **The Image... Likeness**, as in the image on a coin or the reflection in a mirror. with the sense that **God is fully revealed in Jesus.**

John 14:9 He who has seen Me has seen the Father

10. **invisible** = in His essence, God is invisible and even unknowable to man.

a. Yet in Christ, **God is revealed to man** – is now knowable' by man,

11. **Firstborn**: Indicates **priority and rank**, supremacy, not “the first thing God created”, but “the greatest of all – BEFORE creation.

II He created all things

For by Him **all things** were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers

12. Since Christ created all things, He Himself is ‘uncreated’

a. It places Jesus in the position of all authority, since He Himself created all things

III All things exist for Him

All things were created **through** Him and **for** Him, 17 And He is **before** all things,

13. Through, For, and Before tells us that Jesus was AT creation, that He was implicit in creation

a. And that all of creation was done FOR Him

IV He holds all things together

in Him all things consist

14. Could be better said “in Him all things are held together

- a. Ever read up on nuclear physics, you will find that all matter is made up of atoms, which are made up on highly charges particles
- b. Thing is, according to what we know, atoms should NOT hold together. (see what happens when you split one – BOOM!)
- c. But they do – some call it “nuclear glue”, some force that holds atoms together.
- d. All you have to do is read right here – Jesus holds our material world together.

V He is the head

18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

Eph 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

V He is the Preeminent

that in all things He may have the preeminence.

15. Now when we see that statement, that He would have preeminence, and we apply that to our lives... it makes you think, doesn't it?

- a. "Does Jesus have preeminence in my life..."
- b. What would it look like if that were true?

16. THINK –go back to your single days - when there was one person that you felt was the supreme creature of the opposite sex in the entire world.

- a. I mean, you thought "no one is more perfect" (perhaps the person you are married to!)
- b. What if one day that person came up to you, and started talking to you, and you realized "hey, this could be something"
- c. You get up the nerve... "would you like to have dinner?" YES!
- d. Guess what – your life would be centered on that person... to win that person
- e. "where they would want to go, what they would want me to wear, what topics they would want to discuss..."
- f. Everything that you did would sift through the filter of "what would bring me closer to her... what would please her... what would make her happy"
- g. You could say – that person has preeminence in your life.

17. Thing is, for EVERYONE, something or someone has preeminence in their lives...

- a. Could be money, power, thrill, another person
- b. Whatever it is, everything in their life revolves in some way around that thing.
- c. And it forms the basis of how we make decisions...
- d. If our thing is money – we will make decisions based on gaining more money – etc...
- e. Problem is – anything that you place as supreme in your life – will eventually let you down.

18. But what if – that thing – was Jesus?

- a. Thing is, Paul has shown us, Jesus is the one being that we can give the supreme position to in our lives,
 - b. Because of WHO He is, He will NEVER fail us....
19. And here is the key – when we choose to place Jesus Christ as the Lord of our lives, to be supreme...
- a. It is going to change the way we live.
 - b. Because now we have a basis for how we live our lives...
 - c. Not just “what does the rulebook say”,
 - d. but “will this bring me closer to Jesus, will this please Jesus”
20. You see – Jesus came not just to save you, but that you might have life – **ABUNDANT LIFE!**

John 10:15 I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- a. That is what Jesus has given the Christian – its what He has for you
 - b. Having anything else is just settling for a Pinto when we could have a Lexus.
21. Remember those Pintos in the 70's? They were teeny little cars, but they also had a design flaw that if you got hit in the rear, they would blow up like a torch. Not good.
- a. How many Christians have Jesus as prominent... but not preeminent?
 - b. Guess what – when something comes up and hits you in the rear – **BOOM – flameout!**
 - c. Rules – eventually will drive you crazy – **BOOM!**
 - d. Carnality – will bring repercussions – **BOOM!**
22. But when HE is supreme, nothing can shake us, nothing can knock us off track...
- a. When He is supreme, temptation loses its power, the bondage of sin is broken
 - b. When He is supreme, we live our lives based on who HE is
 - c. Not who WE are trying to be!
 - d. Abundance! joy, peace, love, hope, the fruit of the Spirit...
23. But look – this abundance is not just for us – but for those around us...
- a. Think about it, if the people around you see mediocrity –
 - b. I am not talking material abundance –
 - c. Things that matter - I am talking joy, peace, love, hope, the fruit of the Spirit
 - d. is that going to cause them to think “hey, I want what you have”

- e. Like driving up in one of those Pintos... “hey, have I got a business opportunity for you!” “Right – you cant even afford a decent car...”
- f. People see abundance – they will be drawn to it like a sweet aroma...
- g. Like going into a restaurant you smell that wonderful aroma, – or you come in and your wife has put on that perfume that you love...
- h. The aroma of life!

2 Cor 2:15-16

15 For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life.

24. But what if it stinks in that rest – you gonna eat there?

- a. Or you come in for your date, and you have been hunting all weekend, not showered or brushed your teeth...
- b. She’ll be like “get away – you stink!”

25. This is our decision – do we want to walk in the abundance that Jesus has given us? Do we want to be free from the bondage of sin? Do we want to be the fragrance of life to those around us?

- a. Then here is what we do – we give Jesus Christ the position He rightfully deserves in our lives...
- b. We make Him preeminent!

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