

THE PREMINENCE OF CHRIST

Lesson 3: His Preeminence Over Creation and the Church

Colossians 1:15–23

- I. **His preeminence over creation:** Jesus Christ is preeminent over all creation as its Creator (*Colossians 1:15–17*).
 - A. He makes the invisible essence of God visible (*Colossians 1:15a*).
 - B. He occupies the position of preeminence over creation (*Colossians 1:15b–17*).
 - 1. His “first-born (Greek *prototokos*)” status renders Him preeminent over creation (*cp. Psalm 89:27*) (*Colossians 1:15b*).
 - 2. His preeminence over creation is indicated by five prepositions, which indicate that He is the Originator, Agent, Purpose, and Sustainer of creation, Who existed prior to it (*Colossians 1:16–17*).
- II. **His preeminence over the church:** Jesus Christ is preeminent over the church because of His work of reconciliation and bodily resurrection (*Colossians 1:18–20*).
 - A. Jesus Christ was installed in the position of authority over His church after His resurrection from the dead (*Colossians 1:18*).
 - B. His preeminence over the church is based on His unique being and His work of reconciliation on the cross (*Colossians 1:19–20*).
 - 1. **His unique being:** All that God is resides in Jesus Christ (*cp. Colossians 2:9*) (*Colossians 1:19*).
 - 2. **His unique work:** The death of Jesus Christ provided the basis by which all of creation and redeemed mankind are brought into complete harmony with God (*Colossians 1:20*).
- III. **His provision of reconciliation:** Jesus Christ’s work of reconciliation provided for our justification and the potential for our complete sanctification (*Colossians 1:21–23*).
 - A. **Our justification:** Jesus Christ drew us out of our unregenerate lives and reconciled us to God through His substitutionary death (*Colossians 1:21–22a*).
 - B. **Our sanctification:** The ultimate aim of Jesus Christ’s work on the cross is to prepare us to stand before Him with a matured experience of holiness, dependent upon remaining faithful to His voice (*cp. Colossians 1:28*) (*Colossians 1:22b–23*).

Next week: Colossians 1:24–29