

## The Preeminence of Christ

January 22, 2017

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Colossians 1:15-20

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1. Christ: Supreme in Eternity 15
  - invisible God - Heb 11:24; 1 Tim 1:7
  - Jesus: image (icon) of invisible God Jn 1:18; Heb 1:3
2. Christ: Supreme in Creation 15-17
  - a. Firstborn:
    - not like JW & Arian heresy – Jesus the 1<sup>st</sup> created being
    - context: Jesus is Creator (Jn 1:1,3,10; 1 Cor 8:6)
    - David called firstborn (Ps 89:27) - he was youngest (1 Sam 16:11)
    - people of Israel called firstborn (Ex 4:22) to show priority or honor
    - Christ as firstborn = supreme over Creation
  - b. Creator
    - Christ is creator: Jn 1:3, 10; 1 Cor 8:6 – This is reason to marvel!
  - c. Christ is Goal
    - everything began with Christ and everything is for Him!
    - for the glory of God alone : Rm 11:36; Phil 2:11; 1 Cor 10:31
  - d. Sustainer
    - Christ is superior to Creation because He sustains it! Heb 1:3
    - SO WHAT? Let us submit to Christ, let us rest in Christ's provision, Christ is our Sustainer and He knows us and knows what is best for us!
3. Christ: Supreme in His Spiritual Creation 18-20
  - a. Christ is preeminent as Head of His Body
    - Jesus is head over His Body, the Church Eph 1:22-23
    - Paul wasn't persecuting just believers but Christ Body (Act 9:4)
    - He bought Church w/ His own blood 20 (1 Pet 1:18-19)
  - b. Christ is beginning, the firstborn from dead
    - Beginning = first cause. Church is God's idea, not apostles.
    - Christ created Adam, 1<sup>st</sup> man. Christ's work redeems new man, members of His Church recreated in His image Col 3:10
    - Firstborn = priority or importance of Christ's resurrection.
    - Lazarus raised to die again : Christ's resurrection set pattern for our future resurrection to bodies not subject to death, disease (1 Cor 15:42-44; Rev 21:4)
  - c. Christ is preeminent & only means of reconciliation with God
    - Christ is Savior because He is fullness of God.
    - God is pleased with Christ: Mt 3:17; 17:5
    - Christ is Savior of All(kinds) of things - not universalism (2 Ths 1:6-10; Mt 25:41,46; Rev 20:10-15)
    - Christ's shed blood makes reconciliation possible (Rm 5:1; 8:19-22; Eph 2:14)

## Apply:

Christ is preeminent over all: Eternity, Creation, His Spiritual Creation (Church).

Does Christ have preeminence in YOUR life? Col 1:18  
Consider Your: finances, time, words, thought life, entertainment, workplace, family

## Discuss & Apply:

- WSC Q4: Q4: What is God? A4: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. How do you respond to an invisible God? How does Jesus Christ make all the difference Jn 1:18; Heb 1:3?
- Can a person who believes that Jesus is not God (Jehovah Witness, Mormon) be saved? Why or Why not?
- What are the implications for Jesus as Creator? Is "theistic evolution" an acceptable Christian view? What are the problems?
- What are the implications for the fact that everything was created for Christ?
- How does the reality that Christ is the Sustainer impact you on a moment by moment basis?
- Read Act 9: 1-16. What truths are shown in this 'narrative'? How does this help us understand Christ as Head of His Body? So what?
- Whose idea was the Church?
- Read 1 Cor 15: 42-49. What encouragement do we get from Christ being the firstborn from the dead?
- Christ provides salvation for whom? What makes reconciliation with God possible?
- So why is it important to focus on the Preeminence of Christ when evangelizing?