

INTRODUCTION

Colossians is thought to have been written by Paul while he was a prisoner in Rome. Paul is reminding the church at Colossae of their hope in the Gospel and prays for them to have a deeper knowledge of God. In Colossians 1:15-20, Paul describes Christ as supreme Savior. How would you answer someone who genuinely asks “Who is Jesus”?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Most commentators think that Colossians 1:15-20 was an early Christian hymn. What hymns or songs that we sing speak of who Christ is?
2. Read Colossians 1:15-20. List below the things Paul says about Jesus. How many times does Paul use the word ‘all’?

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3. What does the term ‘*firstborn*’ bring to your mind? Does this indicate that Christ was less than God? Why or why not? (See Psalm 89:27.)
4. Colossians 1:16 states that ‘*all things were created by Him and for Him*’. God loves and cherishes you. In fact, Zephaniah 3:17 says that ‘*The Lord your God is with you...He will take great delight in you...(He) will rejoice over you with singing*’. What are some obstacles that keep you from believing this?

Study Questions for Community Groups

5. It's wonderful to know that even in our shortcomings, God still delights in us. When you feel slighted by others, do you remember that they too are '*created by Him and for Him*'? What can you do to remind yourself in these situations to view others as Christ sees them?
6. What does it mean that '*all things are held together by Him*'? Use your imagination... what do you think it would look like if God stopped holding 'all things together'?
7. Read Philippians 2:5-8 and John 13:3-9 and compare these passages to Colossian 1:18. What does this say about Christ? What could you infer this to mean about you?
8. What responsibility do those who are reconciled to God (Colossians 1:20) have to those who are not?
9. As you consider the above questions and verses, do you feel that your view of Jesus is complete? Do you ever find that you domesticate or minimize Christ?

APPLICATION

Take time this week to pray through Colossians 1:15-20, worshipping and praising Christ based on the statements of Who He is and what He has done in this passage.

SCRIPTURE

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:15-20 (NIV).