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## Study Page: Col. 1:15-20

This is what we believe

Reading Colossians 1:15-20

If you are a Christian, this is what you believe about Jesus Christ. These truths are non-negotiable premises upon which your confidence in Christ stands firm.

**He is the image of the invisible God.** All that God is shows up in the person and work of Jesus Christ. (See also Hebrews 1:3)

**The firstborn** is not a reference to sequence. It doesn't mean Jesus was the first one born (see Jno. 1:1-3 & Col. 1:16,17). The term as used here is about rank. Jesus stands *above* all creation, and the phrase is so rendered in the New King James and New International Version. This is an affirmation of the superiority of Jesus Christ above all.

In harmony with this, "...by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through Him and for Him." It is entirely appropriate to call Jesus **The Creator**. He was not only there, He was



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active in the work of creation (see also Jno. 1:1-3). Nothing is left out in Paul's statement. Jesus was involved in the total work of divine creation in the beginning.

Therefore, "...He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together.**" The work of Jesus as Creator continues now in His ongoing work of sustaining and holding together what He made. He keeps this universe running.

In keeping with all of these truths about Him, "...He is **the head of the body**, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent." If you have been baptized into the body of Christ, you now live under the Head, as a member of His body, subservient to Him. "In everything" He

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should be preeminent in your life (see also Col. 3:17).

Verse 19 is a critical part of this paragraph that affirms the truth about the person and work of Jesus Christ: **“For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.”** Jesus was not a half-god or part-god. This is a statement of His full deity. He was never and can never be less than God.

Our problem is sin. God acted with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to provide a solution to our problem (see also 1 Pet. 1:1-3). Through Christ, God is willing to reconcile those who want to come out of sin. “...and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.”

Do you see what Paul does? He affirms the truth about the person and work of Jesus Christ – and takes that truth to God’s gracious offer to reconcile us to Him, “making peace by the blood of His cross.”

This is what we believe. All our living is based on who Jesus is and what He did for us. Be obedient. Be Thankful.

Teaching this passage a few years ago, to emphasize this point I said:

*The Islamic religion does not provide reconciliation with God. The Roman Catholic system does not provide reconciliation with God. Denominational creeds do not provide reconciliation with God. The New Age Gnostic philosophy (even when mixed with biblical terms) does not reconcile sinners to God.*

There is only one way to get out of sin, escape from the consequences, cancel the guilt and enter into fellowship with God. It is through Jesus Christ and “the blood of His cross.”