

# Its all about Jesus: The Supremacy of Christ

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## Introduction

- Sovereignty →
  - Some today wonder whether the Jesus who walked the dusty rural roads of Palestine thousands of years ago has any relevance for a modern world filled with technological wonders of computers, advancement, nuclear power, and space stations.
    - a young boy in Sunday School once asked: If Jesus came back today would he be able to work a computer"? (NIV)
    - This letter (Colossians) that only Christ can unveil the mystery of God's purpose in our world. It also affirms that Christ is the "cohesive force of penetrating and supporting all creation."
  - Seeing Christ as he is will keep us from heresy, for it will steel us against a scaled-down Christ that has captured so many lost hearts.
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## Jesus Christ is Superior (1:15)

- Our Lord and Savior is The image and Firstborn over all creation.
  - Jesus as the image and firstborn of God should immediately creation tension and questions in our spirit and mind.
    1. How can Jesus be an image of God if God is invisible?
      - God is invisible but he allows himself to be known wherever he wills to be known he is revealed in "his image" (Lohse).
        - **John 1:18** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.
      - If you want to see God... Look at Jesus!
        - The only way that Jesus can be THE image of God is if He is God. And that is precisely who He is!
        - Sometimes the word itself meant picture, as when an ancient soldier sent a portrait to his father with the note, "I sent you a little portrait (eikonion) of myself painted by Euctumon)
        - God sent you a picture... His name is Jesus
    2. How can Jesus be an icon/image of God if we are commanded not to worship idols (images of God) in Deut 5:8

- You see any image I create of God is going to be faulty, of poor quality, and not worthy to be called an image
    - This is why God says... you shall not make.
    - Oh how often do we try to worship a Jesus that is created by our hands or in our image?
  - In Greek thought an image was not considered something distinct from the object it represented. As the image of God, **Christ is an exact, as well as a visible, representation of God**, illuminating God's essence (NIV).
    - What Jesus are you worshipping today? The one you fashioned or the one True God... the Jesus Christ who is the image of the invisible God the First over all creation??
    - Anything I creation is distinct from the true Jesus.
3. If Jesus is eternal how can he be created (1:15)?
- **Often we use the term to refer to a child born first to a family.**
  - This is not saying that Christ is the first being created (see Jehovah's witness and Arius). Rather it means first rank of honor. Firstborn can be code for Messiah as in Psalm 89:27.
  - Here it is a title of sovereignty (NIV). He outranks all things in creation. He is not the first born of creation but OVER all creation.
  - Know that we worship a risen savior that has no equal in all of creation. He is not part of creation he is OVER all creation. This is the power of our Lord Jesus Christ!
4. If Jesus is first where does that put me?
- This not only tells us about Christ—it also tells us about ourselves, because as Jesus is the image of God, he is what we were meant to be in terms of character: we were created in his image. Jesus is supreme in eternity, and we ought to give him first place in our lives (Hughes).
  - Not only is Jesus superior He is my superior!

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## Jesus Christ is Creator (1:16)

- There are 800,000 catalogued insects, with billions in some of the species—all created by Christ (Hughes).

New Scientist → the biggest questions ever asked:

- What is reality
- What is life?
- Do we have free will?
- Is the universe deterministic?
- What is consciousness?
- Will we ever have a theory of everything?

- String theory→ “all particles we see in nature are nothing but vibrations of tiny pieces of a superstring, like musical notes on a violin string”
- What happens after you die?
- What comes after homo sapiens?
- He is also MY creator

## Jesus Christ is our Goal (1:15)

- Through→
  - He is the goal. Everything began with him and everything will end with him.
  - Since this is true we must live completely for him. Any other course is completely irrational for the believer (Hughes). **Is your life rational or irrational?**
- **He is also MY goal**

## Jesus Christ is Sustainer (1:15)

- The perfect tense here tells us that he continues now to hold all things together, and that apart from his continuous activity, all would disintegrate (Hughes).
  - Hebrews= He upholds the universe by the word of his power in Heb 1:3.
  - “He is not only the maker of all but he manages to take care of all he has made” Theodoret of Cyr
- He is also MY sustainer

# Conclusion

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Oh the supremacy of Jesus Christ

- He must be first in our:
  - Families
  - Marriages
  - Professions
  - Mission and ministry
  - Intellect
  - Time
  - Love
  - Conversation
  - Pleasures
  - Eating
  - Play
  - Athletics
  - What we watch
  - Art
  - Music
  - Worship (Hughes).
- By sitting in your seat you are agreeing that you are right with God and do not today need to profess Him as Lord.
- Do you have a Savior Story?

## Why does it Matter?

- We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
- We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
- We escape God's wrath (reconciled)
- We are adopted in to a new family
- We gain a new identity (New Creation)
- **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**

## Notes

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- In Colossians a theme emerges: the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as the Head of all creation and of the church (Hughes).
- There is no book in the NT, including John that presents such a comprehensive picture of the fullness of Christ.
- Verse 15 begins the Christ hymn. This is a quotation from a primitive Christian song which celebrates the unique divinity of the exalted Lord and which contains two stanzas each introduced with “He is.”(Lohse)
- The word pas “all” is the thread that binds the verses together (Moo).

### Col. 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

- The firstborn= recalls the story of creation. The term image suggests Gen. 1:27. Here the Hellenistic understanding of this term is to be assumed. God is invisible but he allows himself to be known wherever he wills to be known he is revealed in “his image” (Lohse).
  - Image = **The image** (εἰκών). See on Revelation 13:14. For the Logos (Word) underlying the passage, see on John 1:1. *Image* is more than *likeness* which may be superficial and incidental. It implies a prototype, and embodies the essential verity of its prototype. Compare *in the form of God*, Philippians 2:6 (note), and the *effulgence of the Father’s glory*, Hebrews 1:3. Also 1 John 1:1.
  - Sometimes the word itself meant picture, as when an ancient soldier sent a portrait to his father with the note, “I sent you a little portrait (eikonion) of myself painted by Euctumon)
- **John 1:18** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.
- This not only tells us about Christ—it also tells us about ourselves, because as Jesus is the image of God, he is what we were meant to be in terms of character: we were created in his image. Jesus is supreme in eternity, and we ought to give him first place in our lives (Hughes).
- Paul describes Christ supremacy in creation in four ways in verses 15-17: firstborn, creator, goal (16b) and sustainer (17). (Hughes).
- In Greek thought an image was not considered something distinct from the object it represented. As the image of God, Christ is an exact, as well as a visible, representation of God, illuminating God’s essence (NIV).
- In Christ we see who God is, what God is like, and what God does.
- As the perfect image of God, Christ teaches us what God intended humans to be: “renewed in knowledge in the image of our Creator” (NIV).
- **Firstborn**→
  - **Often we use the term to refer to a child born first to a family.**
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- Here it is a title of sovereignty (NIV). He outranks all things in creation. He is not the first born of creation but 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.

- There are 800,000 catalogued insects, with billions in some of the species—all created by Christ (Hughes).
- Through→
  - He is the goal. Everything began with him and everything will end with him.
  - Since this is true we must live completely for him. Any other course is completely irrational for the believer (Hughes). **Is your life rational or irrational?**

**17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

- The perfect tense here tells us that he continues now to hold all things together, and that apart from his continuous activity, all would disintegrate (Hughes).
- Hebrews= He upholds the universe by the word of his power in Heb 1:3.
- Seeing Christ as he is will keep us from heresy, for it will steel us against a scaled-down Christ that has captured so many lost hearts.
- Sovereignty→
  - Some today wonder whether the Jesus who walked the dusty rural roads of Palestine thousands of years ago has any relevance for a modern world filled with technological wonders of computers, advancement, nuclear power, and space stations.
    - a young boy in Sunday School once asked: "If Jesus came back today would he be able to work a computer?" (NIV)
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**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.

- rything without and many things within are marvelously well at present"

## Application

- “I am going to make Jesus Christ so attractive that men will turn to him.” DL Moody on attacking other religions (Hughes).

Some years ago a South American company bought a printing press from an American firm. Not getting it to work they asked for a technician. The American company seeing the urgency immediately sent the designer of the machine. The SA conglomerate sent a cable saying the man you sent is too young and wet behind the ears. The reply: He made the machine. He can fix it!” (Hughes)

- He must be first in our:
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  - Marriages
  - Professions
  - Mission and ministry
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  - Time
  - Love
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  - Play
  - Athletics
  - What we watch
  - Art
  - Music
  - Worship (Hughes).
- If all the fullness of God dwells in Jesus, then the Colossians will not find fullness in anything else.
- IF all things were created – he brings to naught all supposed threats posed by these powers.
- God’s plan before creation was to reconcile all things through Jesus Christ
- One cannot cut off any extremity of the body except the head and still live (NIV)
- IF Christ sustains the universe, then Christ can sustain individual believers.

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- a. String theory → “all particles we see in nature are nothing but vibrations of tiny pieces of a superstring, like musical notes on a violin string”
7. What happens after you die?
  8. What comes after homo sapiens?