



DISCUSSION GUIDE JANUARY 22, 2023

Dive In

Go around and let everyone answer...

There's a theory that claims the order in which a child is born shapes their development and personality. How has your birth order affected you?

Dig Deep

Read Scripture: Colossians 1: 15-23

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and 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.

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant."

- What does it mean for the Son to be the firstborn over all creation in verse 15?
- Verse 16 says **in** Him, **through** Him & **for** Him all things have been created. What is Paul revealing about Jesus?
- From verse 17, discuss how in Christ **all things hold together**.
- What does **"the supremacy"** in verse 18 mean?
- Verse 21 says we were once enemies of God in our minds because of our sin. Why does Paul say, **"in your minds"**?
- Verse 23 shows that there is a choice to be made. What are the options for the Colossians and all of us?

Do Big

- Take a look back through your checkbook and calendar to see to what or to whom you gave the most of your time, treasure and talent in 2022. What does this reveal about what is supreme in your life?
- List any changes you need to make in where you spend your time, treasure and talent so that Jesus is clearly in the supremacy of your life. How can this group help you?



LEADERS

Read Colossians 1-4

Background:

Many scholars believe verses 15-20 were part of a hymn. Paul encourages us to sing in Ephesians 5:19 & Colossians 3:16. In addition to this possible hymn in Colossians 1:15-20, Paul includes what also appear to be hymns in Philippians 2:5-11, Ephesians 1:3-14, 1 Timothy 3:16. Singing appears to be important to Paul. Even when he was in prison in Philippi (Acts 16:25) he and Silas spent the night "praying and singing hymns to God."

Key Thoughts

Thrones or powers in Jewish thought meant angelic hosts; rulers or authorities meant spiritual powers. All these unseen things were created by God whether they ended up choosing to be good or evil.

Challenge

Why does Paul emphasize Christ's authority? Perhaps some in the Colossian church believed there was a higher authority than Christ. What other false teachings might Paul be addressing here?

Weekly Memory Verse

³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven." Hebrews 1:3