

Questions

1. Read Colossians 1:15-16. Why is the word "for" (because), at the start of verse 16 important?
2. How might you answer someone who claims that the phrase "firstborn over all creation" (1:15) means Jesus is a created being?
3. Read Colossians 1:16 and 2:15. Why did Jesus create spiritual beings who would ultimately rebel against Him and incite evil throughout His creation?
4. What hope do you take from Colossians 1:17, particularly that Jesus holds all things together?
5. How is it that the church, the body of Christ, has its origins in Jesus? How does Colossians 1:18-20 help answer that question?
6. Why is it necessary that all the fullness of God be present in Jesus for Him to reconcile sinners?
7. What truth(s) have you learned from this passage or been challenged to meditate on more deeply?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with you.*

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First Place in Everything

Colossians 1:15-20

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Colossians 1:15-20 wants us to understand that Jesus Christ is supreme over ALL of creation and is supreme over ALL of God's new creation. Believers in Jesus belong to the one who is supreme over ALL.

Jesus Christ is supreme over All of creation (1:15-16)

Jesus is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn over all creation *because* everything was created by Him.

The word *firstborn* (*prototokos*) can refer to timing or order (Luke 2:7), but it also commonly referred to preeminence or status (Romans 8:29; Psalm 89:27).

Everything was created through Jesus and for His glory.

Summarizing the Supremacy of Jesus Over Creation (1:17)

Jesus is before all things:

In time (He existed before creation)

In rank (He is above all of creation; cf. James 5:12 & 1 Peter 4:8)

Jesus sustains all things.

Only His power prevents the whole universe from unwinding into chaos and destruction.

Jesus is the origin of this new creation because of who He is (God in flesh) and what He's done (provided reconciliation through His sacrificial death and defeated the enemies of sin and death by His resurrection).

Jesus Christ is supreme over All of God's new creation (1:18-20)

Because of man's sin, God's good creation was subject to futility, decay and death.

But God promised the coming of something new (Isaiah 43:19), and it is evident in the New Testament in the language of a new creation (2nd Corinthians 5:17).

The reign of Jesus over this new creation is different by way of relationship. He is the head over the body. Believers are joined to Jesus.