

Christ Over All

A study in Colossians

The Unsurpassed Son
and His Unrivaled Work
Colossians 1:19-20
May 19, 2024

MAIN POINT: The eternal Son took unto himself a human nature in the incarnation, and the infinitely valuable and preeminent God-man reconciles sinners to God and works peace through his cross.

I. THE DIVINE PERSON OF THE SON (v. 19)

- “Without ceasing to be what he was, he became what he was not” (Gregory of Nazianzus, *Epistle 101*).
 - What is it about the Son that justifies him to be Lord of creation and Lord of the church? It is the glory of his person, for he is the image of the “unseeable” God (v. 15) and the fullness of God incarnate; and only God has the right to be called Lord over creation and the church.
 - “Fullness” speaks of the true and full deity of the Son (cf. 2:9; Heb. 1:1-4), which was not laid aside, nor did it become dormant, in the incarnation; it was, however, made known—that is, pleased to dwell—in the person of God the Son incarnate who tabernacles amongst us (cf. Exod. 40:34-35; 1 Kings 8:11; 2 Chron. 7:1; Ps. 68:17-18; John 1:14).

II. THE NEW-CREATION WORK OF THE SON (v. 20)

- “He who died for us was of no small worth; he was no [simple] sheep; he was no mere man... he was God made man. The iniquity of sinners was not as great as the justice of him who died for them” (Cyril of Jerusalem, *Catechetical Letters 13.33*).
 - It is only in and through the new-creation saving work of God the Son incarnate that enemies of God are reconciled and made friends of God (cf. Rom. 5:8-11).
 - That particular peace-bringing work was Christ’s cross-work, where the wrath of God and curse of sin was poured out on Christ (cf. Gal. 3:13; Col. 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:23-24) so that we might have peace with God through faith in Christ (cf. Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:11-16).
 - The cross-work of Christ has cosmic implications (cf. Matt. 19:28; Luke 2:13-14; Rom. 8:19-22; 2 Cor. 5:18-19; Phil. 2:9-11)!

Suggested Reading:

Knowing Christ by Mark Jones

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Colossians 1:19-20

1. How does Paul justify Christ’s lordship over creation and over the church in v. 19? How should the “who” and “what” of Christ impact how we view our Maker and Redeemer?
2. In what ways have you had too low a view of the person of God the Son incarnate? After considering the incarnate Son this morning, how has your understanding and delight expanded?
3. Many people were crucified under Roman rule. What made the cross-work of Christ so unique?
4. The infinitely valuable Son reconciled finite and sinful creatures to God. What does this reconciliation imply about the prior relationship between God and fallen mankind (i.e., apart from Christ)? What about the new relationship that is established in Christ between God and his people? How was this reconciliation achieved?
5. As far as the curse is found is how far Christ’s cross-work extends, which is to say it has cosmic effects. Take some time to discuss the cosmic capture of Christ’s cross-work.