

The Most Excellent Way

Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

“The Supremacy of Christ”

HEART ATTITUDE: Poor of Spirit, Humility

LOOK UP THE SCRIPTURES:

Jesus is supreme over all creation, including the spirit world. We must believe that Jesus is God or our Christian faith is hollow and meaningless.

- Jesus is not only equal to God (Philippians 2:6), He is God (John 10:30, 38; 12:45; 14:1-11).
- He not only reflects God, but He reveals God to us (John 1:18; 14:9).
- He came from heaven, not from the earth’s dust (1 Corinthians 15:47), and is Lord of all (Romans 9:5, 10:11-13; Revelation 1:5, 17:14).
- He is completely holy (Hebrews 7:26-28; 1 Peter 1:19, 2:22; 1 John 3:5), and he has authority to judge the world (Romans 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:1).

COLOSSIANS 1:15-23 (NIV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

¹⁶For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by 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, not moved 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.

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• **FOCUSING**

1. What person comes to mind when you think of greatness?

2. Whom do you look up to? Why?

3. What qualities stand out in a person you admire?

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- **STUDYING GOD’S WORD**

4. What is Christ’s relationship to God? (1:15)

Verse 15 is one of the strongest statements about the divine nature of Christ found anywhere in the Bible.

5. What is Christ's relationship to Creation? (1:15-17)

Because the false teachers believed the physical world was evil, they thought God Himself could not have created it. If Christ were God, they reasoned, He would be in charge only of the spiritual world. But Paul explains that both the spiritual and physical worlds were created by and are under the authority of Christ. He has no equal and no rival. Many of the world’s religions think the soul or spirit is important and the body is not, and Christianity has sometimes been influenced by these false beliefs. In truth, Christianity is very “physical.” We worship a God who created a physical world and pronounced it good. He promises us a new earth where real people have transformed physical lives — not a pink cloud where disembodied souls listen to harp music. At the heart of Christianity is the story of God Himself taking on flesh and blood and coming to live with us, offering both physical healing and spiritual restoration.

We humans, like Adam, are a combination of dust and spirit. Just as our spirits affect our bodies, so our physical bodies affect our spirits. We cannot commit sin with our bodies without damaging our souls, because our bodies and souls are inseparably joined. In the new earth, we will have resurrection bodies that are not corrupted by sin. Then we will enjoy the fullness of our salvation.

6. How do “all things hold together” under Christ? (1:16-17)

7. What is Christ’s relationship to the church? (1:18)

8. Why was the resurrection of Jesus significant? (1:18)

The resurrection (Christ is “firstborn from among the dead”) proves Christ’s lordship over the material world. All who trust in Christ will also defeat death and rise again to live eternally with Him (1 Corinthians 15:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:14). Because of His death on the cross, Christ is exalted and elevated to the status that was rightfully His (see Philippians 2:5-11). Because He is spiritually supreme (preeminent) in the universe, we should surely give Him first place in all our thoughts and activities.

9. How did Paul explain the deity of Christ? (1:19)

The evidence is clear. Christ is fully divine. Christ has always been, and will always be, God.

10. What did God achieve through the work of His Son? (1:20)

Christ’s death provided a way for all people to come to God (“reconcile to Himself”). It removed the sin that keeps us from having a right relationship with our Creator. This does not mean that everyone has been saved, but that the way has been cleared for anyone who will trust Christ to be saved. We can have peace with God and be reconciled to Him by accepting Christ.

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11. How did Christ bring us to God? (1:21-22)

NO ONE is good enough to save himself. If we want to live eternally with Christ, we must depend totally on God's grace. This is true whether we have been murderers or honest, hardworking citizens. We have ALL sinned repeatedly, and ANY sin is enough to cause us to come to Jesus Christ for salvation and eternal life. Apart from Christ, there is no way for our sin to be removed.

12. Why was reconciliation necessary? (1:21-22)

13. What is a Christian's position before God? (1:22)

14. What is the role of faith in reconciliation with God? (1:23)

The way to be blameless is to trust Jesus Christ to take our sin away. We must remain "established and firm" ("grounded and settled," KJV) in the Gospel, putting our confidence in Jesus alone to forgive our sins, to make us right with God, and to empower us to live the way He desires. When a judge declares a defendant "not guilty," he has been acquitted of all the charges. Legally, it is as if the person had never been accused. When God forgives our sins, our record is wiped clean. From His perspective, it is as though we had never sinned. God's solution is available to all of us regardless of our background or past behavior.

15. What kind of faith did the Colossians have? (1:23)

16. What was Paul's confident expectation? (1:23)

• **UNDERSTANDING**

17. Why did Paul take the time to describe the qualities of Christ?

18. What difference does our understanding about Christ make?

19. How would you explain reconciliation (with God) to a non-Christian friend?

20. What does the work of Christ on your behalf mean to you?
