

# God the Son

Colossians 1:15-20



WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Picking up from where we left off (John 1:1-4), we find another passage (Colossians 1:15-20) clearly teaching that Jesus Christ, second member of the Trinity, is Almighty God. Like John, the Apostle Paul—the man chosen by the Holy Spirit to write this letter to the Colossian Church—was a Hebrew of Hebrews (Philippians 3:1-6). Also, like John, the things he wrote concerning Jesus in our selected text can only be applied to the eternal, life-giving, creator. There are questions, very powerful and potentially life changing questions shouting from his identification of Jesus...

## 1st Are you impressed with Jesus as much as you should be?

Read Colossians 1:15-20

Notice nine amazing things about the not so baby Jesus...

- A. Image of the invisible God (vs. 15)
- B. Firstborn over all creation (vs. 15)
- C. Creator of all things (vs. 16)
- D. Before all things (vs. 17)
- E. Holds all things together (vs. 17)
- F. Head of the church (vs. 18)
- G. Beginning of the Resurrection (vs. 18)
- H. Supreme one... (vs. 18)
- I. In whom all the fullness dwells (vs.19)

## 2nd If you are not impressed, will you consider some clarification?

Let's look closer at the points of clarification made in verse fifteen...the others are more self explanatory).

- A. *"He is the image of the invisible God"*

Image = Greek *eikon* (ikon):

"essentially and absolutely the perfect expression and representation of...God the Father"

"Christ is the visible representation and manifestation of God to created beings"

(Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words: MacDonald Publishing Co.)

Compare: Hebrews 1:3a—

*"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power."*



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SOUND DOCTRINE: THE TRINITY

**B. "the firstborn of all creation"**

Firstborn = Greek *prototokos*

Prototokos can mean either first in a series or first in preeminence (the context always determines the meaning). In this case, the meaning is clear: Jesus is the Preeminent One. This can be seen from everything surrounding the word *prototokos* (vss. 15-20). He is the Creator. He is eternal. In him all things consist. He is the preeminent one. In him all the fullness dwells.

This meaning also occurs in Psalm 89:27 with reference to King David:

*I will also appoint him my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth.*

In this passage, the word *firstborn* in Hebrew is *bekor*. When the Hebrew Old Testament was translated into Greek (The Septuagint: translated before the New Testament was written) the obvious choice of Greek words for *bekor* was *prototokos*. Since both the Hebrew *bekor* and the Greek *prototokos* can possess both meanings (first in series or first in preeminence) they are a natural translation match. It's obvious that David was never the first king in a series of kings. Instead, just as the Psalm declares, he was *the most exalted of the kings of the earth*. This Hebrew implication is precisely what the Apostle Paul (a Jew among Jews, a Hebrew of Hebrews, cf. Philippians 3:5) poured into the meaning of *prototokos*. Only, in the case of Jesus, it is not merely as the King of the Throne of David, but the Supreme and Preeminent One of Everything.

**Conclusion:** Mother Teresa wrote, "Christ, who being rich became poor and emptied himself to work out our redemption, calls us: to share in his poverty so that we might become rich through his poverty; to bear witness to the true face of Jesus—poor, humble, and friend of the sinners, the weak, and the despised." (Blessed Are You: Mother Teresa and the Beatitudes by Egan and Egan: Servant Publication, 1992)

**Application:** If someone asked you to write about Jesus, what would you put on your sheet of paper?

Do you know him by name only? What then would you say?

Do you realize you need to know him much better? What then would you say?

Do you know him well and are you abiding in him more than anything? What then would you want to say to others?

