

COLOSSIANS – 1:15-21

“...he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence...”

- Colossians 1:18

1. 1:15 - The Image of God

- a. Man was *in* the image of God - Gen 1:26, Heb 10:1; Jesus **IS** the image of God
- b. He is **God** manifest in the flesh - Phil 2:6-8, 1 Tim 3:16, Col 2:9
- c. The firstborn...from the dead! - Col 1:18, Rom 8:29, 1 Cor 15:20-22
- d. Jesus is not the only son of God - John 1:12, Rom 8:14, 8:19, Gal 4:6, Phil 2:15
- e. John 3:16 must say only begotten son of God to be right - Acts 13:33-34, Psa 2:7
- f. The resurrection from the dead was when he was begotten

2. 1:16-17 - Creator, Ruler, and Sustainer

- a. The firstborn is described in Col 1:16
- b. He created all things - John 1:2, Eph 3:9, Heb 1:2
- c. There are authorities invisible - 1 Cor 6:3, Eph 3:10
- d. He is the cause and the reason, the first and last - Rev 1:11, Isa 44:6
- e. He is at the top and in all - Eph 4:6
- f. Consist *def.* - to stand, to hold together, fix, composed, subsist

3. 1:18 - The Head of the Body

- a. “Head of the body” → his position - Eph 1:20-23, 4:15, 5:23,30; Col 2:19
- b. “body of Christ” church - Rom 6:3, 7:4, 12:5, 1 Cor 10:16, 12:12, Eph 4:12
- c. Different “churches” with different instructions - Acts 7:38, 8:1, & Col 1:24
- d. This church began with Christ, through Paul - Eph 3:6, 5:30-31, Col 2:17
- e. “All things” defined in the context - Col 1:20, John 1:3
- f. He is the preeminent, the priority, the foundation - Acts 4:11-12, 1 Cor 3:10-11

4. 1:19 - The Pleasure of God

- a. God’s pleasure is in Christ, not you - Luk 1:33, 1:19, but you walk - Col 1:10 (2:6)
- b. It is God that works in you to his pleasing - Phil 2:13, Eph 1:5, 9, Rom 8:8
- c. The pleasure (will) of God is made known - 1 Cor 1:21, Eph 1:5,9
- d. The fullness of the Godhead in Christ - Col 2:9, 1 Tim 3:16

5. 1:20-21 - Reconciliation of All Things

- a. Peace between Jew and Gentile, and with God- Eph 2:13-17
- b. The blood was the cause of the peace -2 Cor 5:17-21, Rom 5:1
- c. Both things: heaven and earth - Gen 1:1, Eph 1:10, Col 1:16, Phil 2:10