

THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

The Fullness of Deity Dwelling in Christ

God in Human Flesh

Colossians 1: 15a

Introduction: Colossians 1:15-20 is one of the most significant passages in all of the Bible for describing the true nature of the person of Jesus Christ. Unfolding before us in magnificent phrases of precisely stated attributes is a vista of the Glory and Grandeur of our Lord. It describes His supremacy in creation and in redemption and proclaims Lord of all and Lord over all. He is Jesus Christ: Creator and Redeemer, and our Savior!

I. Understanding the Language: the Image of the invisible God

- A. An image may be
 - 1. a precise likeness to a person or thing, such as the face of Lincoln on a penny
 - 2. a representation of a person or thing, such as the Statue of Liberty that represents freedom and opportunity in America—a symbol that calls to mind something or some one because of the similarity of the representation. The idols of the ancient world were images of their pagan gods and fashioned according to their attributes.
- B. Jesus Christ is the visible image and revelation of the invisible God.
 - 1. Revelation, chapters 4-5 describe *Him Who sat on the throne and held a book in His right hand* who is not the Person of Christ but the Father-God on the throne.
 - 2. Though God is a Spirit and is non-corporeal (has no physical body) yet He has attributes which He has transmitted to us who are made in His image which are also best expressed by our frame and posture—we are god-like in creation.

II. But What is God Like? He is Just Like Jesus!

*Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father and it is enough for us."
Jesus said to Him... "he who has seen Me has seen the Father."*

- A. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten of God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. (John 1:18)
 - 1. The verse speaks of the intimacy, the unity of essence and nature, and the love of the Father for the Son and the Son for the Father. He is fully qualified to speak with truth and authority about the nature of God for He comes from the heart of God.
 - 2. Jesus Christ has explained God to us in visible terms. He has unveiled Him for our eyes to see.
- B. If you want to know what God is like and to understand His nature, His character, how he thinks and feels—study Jesus. He is the exact representation of His nature (Heb. 1:3)
 - 1. As He turns water to wine, as He receives the little children, as He heals all who come to Him, as He drives out the demons, as He cleanses the temple, as He calms the storm, as He touches the lepers and forgives the prostitutes, as He rebukes the hypocritical Pharisees, as He explains the law and feeds the multitude, as He goes to the cross and rises from the dead, as He makes his disciples His friends and pours out His Spirit, as He prays for us and gives us access to the Father.
 - 2. There is no inconsistency between the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. He is the Creator God, the Redeemer God, the Coming King of Kings and Lord of Lords. To see Jesus is to see the Father and the Spirit, for He has unveiled God to us and revealed His nature.

Conclusion: If you would come to know God, cast our gaze upon Jesus. Study His life and actions, observe His character. Get to know Him for He is the visible image of the invisible God.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Colossians 1: 15-20
(NASB)

