

Jesus, Very God of Very God (Col. 1:15-23)

I. The Eternal Son of God (v.15)

A. He is the Image of the Invisible God

1. A Perfect Representation of the Father

a. He personifies the attributes of God

i. He is Love, Justice, Forgiveness, etc.

ii. He demonstrates wrath, holiness, perfection

b. He Represents the Father to us

i. He is all God yet all man

ii. We see what the Father is like by looking at the Son

B. He is the Firstborn Over all Creation

1. Does not mean He is the First Created Being (we will see that in the next few verses)

2. He has the rights and authority of the first born Son

a. Firstborn had ownership of Father's name

b. Firstborn had rights to the Father's estate

c. Firstborn has authority over the Father's house

II. The Architect of Creation (16-17)

A. He is the Creator Himself (16)

1. He created all things in Heaven and Earth

a. Both visible and invisible

i. all spiritual and physical reality

ii. Jesus can't be just another spiritual being, He created all spiritual beings

b. Both dominions or thrones

i. He establishes earthly rulers (He is in control)

ii. He creates earthly authorities

c. Both Principalities and Powers

i. He creates the spiritual authorities

ii. There are no "other gods" out there competing for authority. He created all spiritual authority. Everything is under His power.

B. He is the Instrument And Purpose of Creation

1. "Through Him"

a. Shows the Trinity in creation –

i. Not only did He create, but He was the instrument the Father and the Spirit used to create

ii. "The Word" is how God created in Gen. 1 – God said...and it was.

iii. "The Word" became flesh and dwelt among us in John 1 – it was Jesus Himself.

2. "For Him"

a. The Purpose of Creation is Jesus

b. It was created for Him

i. To glorify His name

ii. Therefore, He does not serve other powers

C. He is the Sustainer of Creation (17)

1. He is Before all things
 - i. “older than all things?” –
 - ii. “greater than all things?”
2. He Holds all things together
 - i. “consist” means “hold together”
 - ii. He didn’t just get it running
 - iii. He is keeping everything going
 - iv. Every breath we take is from his hand
 - v. Without him the universe would fly apart

III. The Architect of God’s People (18-19)

A. The Authority and Creator of the Church (18)

1. “The Head of the body” the church
 - a. He has authority over the church
 - b. He is the focus of the church

B. The Creator and Originator of God’s People

1. He is “the beginning”
 - a. He originates God’s people
 - i. Not some spiritual entity
 - ii. Not a past Hebrew Patriarch
 - iii. God’s people are those who are in Jesus
2. He is the “firstborn from the dead”
 - a. This is how he birthed the church
 - b. He secured man’s salvation
 - c. He was the first to be resurrected
 - i. Others came back to life (Lazarus, Tabitha)
 - ii. They died again
 - iii. Jesus was raised to never die again
3. He is the “first in all things”
 - a. The church inherits the new creation
 - b. Christ reigns in the new heavens and Earth

C. The Fullness of God

1. Jesus is all “the God” there is to be had
 - a. He is not just the first step toward God
 - b. He is not just a prerequisite
 - c. He is the fullness of God
2. Jesus is God of the creation and of the Church

IV. The Savior of Creation (20)

A. He Reconciled All Things to God

1. He made peace between God and creation
2. He made peace by the blood of the cross
3. He made peace with heaven and earth

V. The Savior of God’s People (21-23)

A. You Were Enemies of God (21)

1. You were once strangers (foreigners)

- a. estranged from God
 - b. You didn't know Him
 - c. You weren't known by Him (relationally)
- 2. You were enemies of God
 - a. You are either for Him or against
 - b. All those not in Christ are enemies of God
 - c. Enemies because of our sin
 - i. Our evil deeds evidenced our hatred of God
 - ii. Sinners and God are at war
- B. You were Reconciled to God (22)
 - 1. He reconciled you
 - a. By the death of his physical body
 - i. He took punishment for sin
 - ii. He bore the wrath of God
 - 2. He Purified You
 - a. He presents you to the Father blameless
 - b. He presents you as Holy
 - c. He presents you without blemish
 - 3. He removed the Hostility between man and God
- C. You Bear the Evidence of Reconciliation (23)
 - 1. "If you remain in the faith..."
 - a. If you remain – is a future action
 - b. "but now he has reconciled" – is a present action
 - i. the future will give evidence to the present
 - ii. If you continue – then you already are
 - iii. Does not say "if you remain...then you will be"
 - 2. Remain trusting in Christ alone
 - a. Doesn't mention works
 - b. Doesn't mention standard of obedience
 - c. Only mentions trusting (remaining in "THE" faith)
 - i. in the hope of the gospel
 - ii. in the hope of Jesus' salvation
 - iii. The gospel of grace Paul preached.