

Study Guide

COLOSSIANS

Always. Only. Jesus.

Jesus, Our Reconciliation | Colossians 1:15-23

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he 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, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. (ESV)

Introduction

Syncretism was a very real danger in the early church, e.g., pagan philosophy and practice alongside Christ or Judaist demands of Christ plus circumcision, dietary restrictions, and holy day observances. It is still a danger in the twenty-first century. Cultural things, religious things, even good things creep in that distract us from Christ, himself. You can have a good church, a moral church, a ministry filled church, a socially inviting church, but it not be Christ's church.

Jesus is our hope laid up in heaven (1:3-8). Jesus is our redemption from the domain of darkness (1:9-14). Jesus is the only one who can reconcile us with the Father (1:15-23). Jesus' church is Always. Only. Jesus.

The BIG Idea: Christ alone reconciles us to God.

Jesus and Creation (15-17)

- Jesus, the image of God (15).
- Jesus, the firstborn of all creation (15b).
- Jesus, the agent of creation (16-17).

Jesus and the Church (18-20)

- Jesus, the head of the church (18a).
- Jesus, the firstborn of the dead (18b).
- Jesus, the reconciler of all things (19-20).

Jesus and You (21-23)

- You were God's enemy (21).
- Jesus died to reconcile you (22A).
- Jesus lives to make you new (22b-23).

Click or Scan to Listen

[All My Boast is in Jesus](#)
([Matt Boswell](#), [Matt Papa](#))



[The Power of the Cross \(O to See the Dawn\)](#)
[Keith and Kristyn Getty](#)



Let's Think About It

Thinking about the cultural context:

Facing the temptation to add other things to Jesus and thus devalue Jesus, how does Paul exhort and encourage the church in this text?

In what ways might we add things to Jesus and thus devalue Jesus?

Thinking about Paul's description of who Christ is:

In the original language, verses 15-20 are a poem about Christ. What stood out to you about Christ in those verses that maybe you hadn't thought deeply about before?

Since all things were created by Christ, through, Christ and for Christ, how should we live and what should we worship?

How is the church an image of God's new creation in the present world?

What does it mean for us that Christ is the head over the church?

What does it mean that *all the fullness of God was pleased* to dwell in Jesus?

Thinking about Paul's description of us:

Why could we not reconcile ourselves to God (21)?

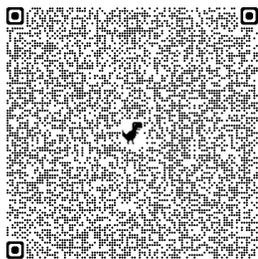
What does Christ's death and resurrection accomplish for us (22)?

How can we have assurance that we are reconciled to God (23)?

Book Recommendation (Click or Scan)

[The Imperfect Disciple: Grace for People Who Can't Get Their Act Together](#)

By Jared Wilson



*"Perseverance in faith, not perfection in faith,
is a mark of genuine conversion."*

Pastor Brent

How Great Thou Art (Stuart K Hine)

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works, Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout, The universe displayed!

And when I think, That God His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in -
That on the cross, My burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died, To take away my sin!

When Christ shall come, With shout of acclamation
And take me home, What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow, In humble adoration
And there proclaim, My God, how great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!