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Group Guide

Preeminent Christ

March 2, 2025

Main Passage: Colossians 1:15-23

Theological Theme

No one is greater than Jesus. Everything was created by Him, through Him, and for Him, and He holds everything together. He is central, and He should be the most important person in our lives.

Introduction

- ❓ What in creation draws your mind to the greatness of God?
- ❓ Why is it important that we take time to notice these things and allow them to lead us to meditate on God's power and goodness?

1. Firstborn of Creation (Colossians 1:15-17)

Paul was prompted to write this letter after learning from Epaphras that the true gospel was under threat in Colossae because of false teaching. So far in his letter, Paul had established himself as credible to teach them and told what he'd prayed for them: that they would understand God's will for their lives and experience spiritual growth. Paul also reminded the Colossians that God rescued them from the darkness of Satan's dominion and brought them into Jesus's light (v. 13). Jesus has paid for the forgiveness of our sins (v. 14).

- ❓ What does it mean that Jesus is "firstborn over all creation" (v. 15)?
- ❓ Based on these verses, how does everything in creation point to Jesus at some level?
- ❓ Application: What do these verses tell us about Jesus's role in our world and lives?

2. Head of the Church (Colossians 1:18-20)

Paul continued his rich teaching on Jesus in this passage, describing Jesus's relationship with the church. Jesus is supreme. Jesus is central. No one is greater than Jesus.

- ❓ What does it mean that Jesus is the head of the church? How should this affect our lives and relationships today?

- ❓ What do you think it means for God to “reconcile everything to himself” through Jesus (v. 20)?
- ❓ Application: How would your life look different if you truly viewed Jesus as central in everything you said and did?

3. Working in Our Lives (Colossians 1:21-23)

Before we knew Jesus and had a relationship with Him, we were “alienated” from God. The corrupt thoughts in our hostile minds bear fruit in the form of evil actions, or actions that aren’t aligned with God’s will or plan for us. Paul also spoke to this idea when he wrote about the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. When we are separated from God, the hostility in our hearts and minds is expressed through these actions.

- ❓ In these verses, Paul spoke directly to the impact of Christ’s preeminence in our lives. What are some specific ways Paul said Jesus has impacted the lives of believers?
- ❓ How did Paul live as a servant of the gospel?
- ❓ Application: What does it look like to be a “servant of” the gospel in 2025?

Conclusion

- ❓ How does our text today shape your understanding of who Jesus is and how we should live our lives?
- ❓ What are some safeguards we can put into place in our lives to make sure that we aren’t falling into the trap of false teaching? How can we support one another in this effort as a group?
- ❓ Who can you tell about Jesus by sharing about His preeminence in all things?