

## The Visible Image of the Invisible God

*Colossians 1:15-18*

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### I. Jesus is the exact image. *Colossians 1:15*

The word "image" in *Colossians* is the word *eikōn* which means "an exact \_\_\_\_\_ and revelation", as an image in a mirror or on a coin.

- "The moon reflects light, whereas the sun radiates light because it is its source. Jesus does not simply reflect God's glory; he is \_\_\_\_\_ of it!" (Hughes)

The **firstborn** son is an important concept in Judaism, where the **firstborn** son had the privilege of the \_\_\_\_\_.

- Once a person is saved, they share in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, as His "co-heirs" or "joint-heirs." *Romans 8:17*

### II. Jesus is also creator. *Colossians 1:16*

In *Mark 4*, Jesus didn't promise them an absence of storms, but He did promise them they would make it to the \_\_\_\_\_.

- "They were scared because they realized Jesus was less \_\_\_\_\_ than the storm." (Keller) *Mark 4:41*

### III. Jesus is holding all things together. *Colossians 1:17*

Jesus is over all thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers; **before all things**; in the Greek, "the whole \_\_\_\_\_ of things."

- The Apostle Paul in AD 60, inspired by the Spirit of God, explained to the Colossian Church, the atomic glue holding all things together, is \_\_\_\_\_. *2 Peter 3:10*

### IV. The position of Christ. *Colossians 1:18*

"The term beginning can be translated as \_\_\_\_\_. (Wiersbe)

- "God cannot give us a happiness and peace \_\_\_\_\_ from Himself, because it is not there." (C.S. Lewis)

1. The literal translation for "**In the beginning**" means in the commencement of \_\_\_\_\_!

2. The word **God** in this context is the word "Elohim". *Genesis 1:1* Elohim, plural word describing the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (*echad*), used to describe God in the Trinity.

- Paul says, "Jesus Christ was before all things; ergo, the apostle conceived Jesus Christ to be truly, and essentially \_\_\_\_\_. (Clarke)

In Christ, you are not only washed and redeemed; you are perfect, holy, righteous and \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ! *John 17:21-23*

### Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. How would you describe Christ in one word or phrase?
2. What does the hypostatic union of Christ mean?  
*John 1:18, John 14:9, Mark 13:32, Matthew 9:2-6, Hebrews 1:3*
3. Read *Colossians 1:13–20*. How did Paul describe Christ?  
*Philippians 2:5-8*
4. As Savior, what did Christ do for us? Why is this important?
5. How is Christ the "firstborn of every creature"?  
*Genesis 25:19-34, Romans 8:17*
6. What does the fact that Christ is the Creator tell us about Him?  
*John 1:1-14, Genesis 1:1, Mark 4:39-41*
7. What is the significance of Christ as the "head of the body, the church"?  
*1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12:3-8*
8. Read *Colossians 1:17* and describe how Jesus is holding all things together.  
*2 Peter 3:10, Revelation 8:7, Matthew 24:35, 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3*
9. Read *Deuteronomy 6:4-5* and discuss the triune nature of God.  
*Genesis 1:26, John 1:1-14, John 17:21-23*

(Some questions taken from Warren Wiersbe)