

**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 "*Elohiym*". **Genesis 1:1**  
*Elohiym*, 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)