

Central Idea: Jesus is supreme and reconciles us with God.

I. Who Jesus Is (15-19)

- In Relation to the Father (15a, 19)
 - He is the Image of God
 - No part of God is lacking in Jesus Christ
 - Jesus makes God known, and visible, to us (John 14:9)
- He is the Fullness of God
 - The totality of God's power dwells in Christ
 - “dwell” = live in permanently
- In Relation to Creation (15b-17)
 - He is the Firstborn of All Creation
 - Not the first created thing
 - “firstborn” = priority in time and/or supremacy in rank
 - Sovereign over all creation
 - All things were created by Him
 - All things originated in Christ
 - The architect of creation
 - This includes both the physical and the spiritual
 - All things were created through Him
 - The instrument by which creation came to exist
 - The builder of creation
 - All things were created for Him
 - Creation's goal and purpose is found in Him
 - The owner of creation
- He is before all things
 - Intensive - “He and no other”

- He holds all things together
 - The sustainer of creation
- In Relation to the Church (18)
 - He is the head of the body
 - Has authority over the church
- He is the beginning
 - He starts, and makes a way to the Father for others
- He is the firstborn from the dead
 - The first to come back to life and never die again
 - As a result He attains preeminence

II. What Jesus Does (20-22)

- As firstborn from the dead He reconciles all things
 - Possible because He has made peace (Rom 5:1)
 - Through the blood of His cross
 - Christ has dealt with every effect of sin
- For the Colossians and other believers
 - Reconciled them
 - Despite their rebellion and hatred
 - Presents them before God
 - Holy = set apart
 - Blameless = without blemish
 - Beyond Reproach = free from accusation
 - Describes the believer's standing in Christ

III. What That Means For Us (23)

- Our actions should match our standing in Christ
 - Continue in the faith
 - Don't move away from the hope of the Gospel