

Colossians 1:15-20 The Poem of the Pre-eminent Christ

1. Our passage deals with the pre-eminence of Christ. What does the word pre-eminence mean?
2. The passage gives specific teaching on the pre-eminence of Christ, how does this subject apply to what the church in Colossae was facing?
3. What would you say is the biggest issue Emmanuel faces in 2022? How does this passage apply with that issue?
4. Are there any statements in our passage that you don't understand? What are they?
5. (This is a technical, lengthy question. It may not be the right question for your group to answer) Scan through the passage and identify the various prepositions. How do they fit together?
6. Read 1:12-14, then jump directly down and read 1:21-22. See how these sections naturally fit together? This has led some Bible scholars to see 1:15-20 like an extra bonus, where Paul breaks out in spontaneous praise. Do you agree with this interpretation of the passage? Why or why not? Has there been times this week, when you have broke into spontaneous praise?
7. As the passage was read (1:15-20), what was the most encouraging description of Jesus Christ? (Take the opportunity for everyone in the group to answer this question)
8. There are two descriptions of Jesus Christ in 1:15. What are they and what do they mean?
9. What misinterpretations have you heard about what "the firstborn of all creation" means (1:15)? How did Pastor Don address that?
10. How might the phrase "for by him all things were created" also address the misinterpretation of question 9?
11. In 1:16 note the description "by him,..... through him,..... for him" What do these descriptions teach us about the creation process?
12. 1:17 says that "Jesus holds all things together". How do we believe this to be true, while living in a broken world?
13. If you were writing a poem about the glory and power of Jesus, would you have included a reference to the church? Why or why not?
14. Paul likes to use the image of a head connected to a body to describe Christ's relationship to the church. Why is that an important picture?
15. Are there images or pictures that come to mind when it says, "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" (1:19)? What does 'fullness' mean?
16. 1:19-20 describes Jesus as the Lord of Redemption. What are the various statements that make up that description?

17. This passage is loaded with lots of technical descriptions about Christ. What is the benefit of taking time to unpack those descriptions?
18. How would you summarize the main points of this passage? What is the key lesson this passage is trying to teach us?