

We Believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ Colossians 1:13-20

Slide 1

The world has a problem with Jesus. You can talk about God all you want, but as soon as you mention the name of Jesus, things get quiet and many try and change the subject.

The fact is: the world wants nothing to do with Jesus. If you claim to be a Jesus believing, born again Christian, the world will label you as a religious radical and tune you out.

But being a Christian is all about Jesus. Acts 11:26b, *“The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”*

This term “Christian” was coined by outsiders, but the three little letters at the end, “-ian,” means “belonging to.” So, as Christians, we belong to Christ.

We could have just as easily been called “Jesusians,” belonging to Jesus. In some places in the world, Christians are called “Nazarenians,” meaning they belong to the One from Nazareth, Jesus.

But is that enough? Because today, the term “Christian” has become a political term, like saying you’re a conservative, or a Republican.

The sad fact is that many, who call themselves Christian, really aren’t, nor do they understand who Jesus really is.

As Christians, we say that we’re saved by the blood of Jesus, that Jesus died for our sins, that Jesus rose from the dead, and many other church phrases.

Now, these are all correct, but what is it about Jesus that makes Him so special?

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When we confess Jesus as Lord, we're also confessing the Deity of Jesus, meaning that Jesus is part of the Godhead, that we call the "Trinity."

We believe in the Triune God as He revealed Himself to us as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The word "Trinity" doesn't appear anywhere in the Bible. However, the doctrine of the trinity is found throughout the Old Testament and especially in the New Testament.

Now, the doctrine of the Trinity has never been fully defined or understood. Many, think that Christians worships three Gods but that's far from the truth.

We affirm the Old Testament declaration of the Shema found in Deuteronomy 6:4, "*Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!*"

God is one, yet He has revealed Himself in three forms or persons, Who all exist simultaneously and in unity.

How does this work? I don't know, but my lack of understanding of the concept of the Trinity doesn't change Who or what God is.

Now, explaining the Trinity isn't the purpose of today's message, but rather to consider Jesus as part of the God-head.

Today's focal passage is found in Colossians 1. So, turn to the book of Colossians, chapter 1 and go down to verses 13-20.

There's arguably no other paragraph in the New Testament the contains more concentrated doctrine about Jesus than this. It speaks to His divine nature.

If you get nothing else out of today's message, understand this, if you want to know what God's like, look no further than Jesus.

As Colossians 1:15 tells us, *"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."*

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In the Old Testament, the belief was that no one could see God and live. Exodus 33:20, *"But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."*

Because of this, God came in the form of a human, Jesus. Therefore to see Jesus is to see God.

If you have trouble with this concept, you're in good company. Even the disciples had a problem with this.

John 14:8–9, *"Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'" Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

Jesus is God. That's why Jesus said in John 14:6, *"No one can come to the Father but through Me"* and Colossians 1:19, *"For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him."*

All of what God is, Jesus is. To know God is to know Jesus. It's just that simple. Jesus is God.

John 1:1–2, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."*

Jesus Himself, identified Himself as God. This is exemplified by His "I AM" statements in the book of John.

For example, in John He makes an odd sounding statement concerning Abraham. John 8:58, *"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"*

"Before Abraham was born" is past tense, yet Jesus said, *"I AM,"* present tense. At that statement the Jews were picking up stones to kill Jesus because He just called Himself God.

This is the same name God used for Himself at the burning bush with Moses. It's all about Jesus. We can't talk about God without including Jesus.

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Back to verse 15 where it says, *"the firstborn of all creation."* Jesus is the firstborn of all creation.

There are those, like the Jehovah Witnesses and others who take this out of context.

They claim that Jesus is a created being, but the Bible doesn't bear that out. Jesus Christ is not a created being; He's eternal God.

Warren Wiersbe said, *"The term firstborn does not refer to time, but to place or status. Jesus Christ was not the first being created, since He Himself is the Creator of all things. Firstborn simply means "of first importance, of first rank."*

"Firstborn" in Biblical times meant rank and placement. Solomon wasn't born first of all of David's sons, yet he was named the firstborn. Firstborn of all Creation means "prior to all Creation."

Jesus is before everything. Jesus Himself said in Revelation 22:13, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."*

Not only is Jesus the beginning of all things, He's also the end of all things, and He's at all points in between. Jesus is truly all in all.

In fact, as we continue to read, we learn that all of creation owes its very existence to Jesus.

Colossians 1:16, *"For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him."*

This Jesus, Who's the very image of God, is the very agent of all creation. Creation was done by Jesus, for Jesus. All that there is or ever has been, was created by Jesus.

John said as much in John 1:3, *"All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."*

This is where the world finds fault. If Jesus created all there is, then He's above all, and we're all answerable to Him.

But the world doesn't want to answer to anyone or anything, so it chooses to not acknowledge Him.

Romans 11:36, *"For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."*

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Not only do we owe our very existence to Jesus, but the fact that we continue to exist we owe to Him as well. Colossians 1:17, *"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."*

Jesus is before everything. He has preeminence. The universe would cease to exist if were not for Jesus. I believe this verse is quite literal.

In the world of science, physicists have been searching for what has been referred to as the “God particle,” the very substance they believe that holds an atom together.

They truly don’t know what it is that holds an atom together which is why I believe Colossians 1:17 is quite literal.

Jesus literally holds everything together. Jesus holds the universe together and He holds this earth together.

Do you understand that we have fear mongers out there, individuals who dispense fear to control the population?

Back in the 70’s they warned us that man was destroying the earth’s climate and that the earth was entering another ice age. We were all going to freeze to death.

Today they’re telling us that we’re heating up the world with global warming. What are we to believe? Could it be that science is wrong?

I’ll tell you what I believe: I believe Jesus is holding all things together and I believe His inspired Word tells us that.

Genesis 8:22, *“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease.”*

I firmly believe the Word of God. Jesus has this; He holds it all together, not man.

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Conclusion

In verse 18, we get more personal. This verse is directed to those in the church; to those who claim to be born of Him, who truly desire to be called a child of God.

Colossians 1:18, *“He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”*

Jesus is the head, the origin, the source, the leader. Jesus established the church, which the Bible refers to as the bride of Christ.

True members of the church will follow Him, even after physical death, because He’s the firstborn of the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:20, *“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.”*

There have been others who’ve been raised from the dead, both in the Old and New Testaments. The big difference here is the fact that those individuals were raised to die a physical death again.

Christ was the first to be raised to never die again. Because He’s the head of the body, the church, and the firstborn from the dead, *“He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”*

Therefore, Jesus expects nothing less, than:

- First place in our hearts
- First place in our minds
- First place in our jobs
- First place in our families
- First place in our time and energies
- First place with our resources
- First place in all we say and do
- First place in everything.

Colossians 1:19–20, *“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”*

All of what God is resides in Jesus and by Jesus. God reconciles or redeems all to Himself. This is done by Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross.

Jesus paid the penalty we couldn’t pay. Because of our sin, this fallen world demanded death by the wrath of God, but Jesus satisfied that wrath by His blood, making peace with God.

Romans 5:8, *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

We are God’s creation, made by and for Jesus. But in our sinful state, there was no hope. So, God sent Jesus rescue us.

Colossians 1:13–14, *“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

Jesus made us, and He’s responsible for our rescue. He died for our sins so that we might be made whole again, to stand fully justified before the throne.

Here’s the problem in the world. The world wants to save itself, or worse yet, they don’t believe they need saving.

The world believes it has all the answers, while ignoring and turning away from the Maker, the very One who can fix them.

It’s like throwing a drowning man a lifeline only to have him throw it back saying, *“I got this, I’ll save myself,”* while he slips under the waves.

It's all about Jesus. Do you know him?

Dr. S. M. Lockridge of Calvary Baptist Church puts it this way...

My King was born King. The Bible says He's a Seven Way King. He's the King of the Jews – that's a racial King. He's the King of Israel – that's a National King.

He's the King of righteousness. He's the King of the ages. He's the King of Heaven. He's the King of glory. He's the King of kings and He is the Lord of lords.

Now that's my King. Do you know Him?

David said the Heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork. My King is the only one whom there are no means of measure which can define His limitless love.

No far-seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of His shore of supplies. No barriers can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing.

He's enduringly strong. He's entirely sincere. He's eternally steadfast. He's immortally graceful. He's imperially powerful. He's impartially merciful.

That's my King.

He's God's Son. He's the sinner's savior. He's the centerpiece of civilization.

He stands alone in Himself. He's august. He's unique. He's unparalleled. He's unprecedented. He's supreme. He's pre-eminent.

He's the loftiest idea in literature. He's the highest personality in philosophy. He's the supreme problem in high criticism.

He's the fundamental doctrine of proved theology. He's the carnal necessity of spiritual religion.

That's my King.

He's the miracle of the age. He's the superlative of everything good that you choose to call Him. He's the only one able to supply all of our needs simultaneously.

He supplies strength for the weak. He's available for the tempted and the tried. He sympathizes and He saves. He's guards and He guides.

He heals the sick. He cleanses the lepers. He forgives sinners. He discharges debtors. He delivers the captives.

He defends the feeble. He blesses the young. He serves the unfortunate. He regards the aged. He rewards the diligent and He beautifies the meek.

Do you know Him?

Well, my King is a King of knowledge. He's the wellspring of wisdom. He's the doorway of deliverance. He's the pathway of peace. He's the roadway of righteousness. He's the highway of holiness.

He's the gateway of glory. He's the master of the mighty. He's the captain of the conquerors. He's the head of the heroes. He's the leader of the legislatures.

He's the overseer of the over comers. He's the governor of governors. He's the prince of princes. He's the King of kings and He's the Lord of lords.

That's my King.

His office is manifold. His promise is sure. His light is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes.

His Word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteous. His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

I wish I could describe Him to you, but He's indescribable. He's incomprehensible. He's invincible. He's irresistible.

I'm telling you the heavens of heavens cannot contain Him, let alone a man explain Him.

You can't get Him out of your mind. You can't get Him off of your hands. You can't outlive Him, and you can't live without Him.

Pharisees couldn't stand Him, but they found out they couldn't stop Him. Pilot couldn't find any fault in Him.

The witnesses couldn't get their testimonies to agree. Herod couldn't kill Him. Death couldn't handle Him, and the grave couldn't hold Him.

That's my King.

He always has been, and He always will be. I'm saying He had no predecessor and He'll have no successor.

There's nobody before Him and there'll be nobody after Him. You can't impeach Him and He's not going to resign.

That's my King!

Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory. All the power belongs to my King.

We talk about black power and white power and multi-color power, but it's God's power. Thine is the power and the glory.

We try to get prestige and honor and glory for ourselves, but the glory is all His. Thine is the Kingdom and the power and glory, forever and ever and ever and ever.

How long is that? And ever and ever and ever and ever. And when you get through with all of the evers, then, Amen.

That's my King! Do you know Him?