

Theme: Theme: Christ is preeminent in and over everything - the present creation and everything it, and the new creation, which has already begun through His reconciling work.

I. Intro – Hoodwinked

- A. Story of Little Red Riding Hood - retold!
- B. Investigating the crime - many different stories
- C. Actually do not conflict - all piece together for full truth
- D. This section a lot more complex than Red Riding Hood!
- E. Amazing artistry, one message - Christ's Preeminence

II. The Nature of Christ's Preeminence

- A. He is the image of God (v15) - εἰκὼν
 - 1. Denotes a representation of something
 - 2. Literal - portrait on coin - Mark 12:16
 - 3. Humans **in** the image of God - Genesis 1:27
 - 4. Jesus **is** the image of God - v15; 2 Cor. 4:4
- B. He is the Firstborn (vv15,18)
 - 1. Two basic meanings
 - a. Primacy in time (literal) - first born - Luke 2:7
 - b. Primacy in rank (figurative) - Psa 89:27; Ex 4:22-23
 - c. Most NT uses are primacy in rank/figurative
 - 2. Jesus is first in time and rank - but especially rank
 - a. Time - before all things, from dead vv17-18

- b. Rank - firstborn over creation (v15) - more later
- C. He is the fulness of God (v19)
 - 1. All the fulness (of God) dwells in Jesus - v19
 - 2. Colossians 2:9 - Deity of Christ central in letter
- D. The goal - that He might be preeminent/supreme (v18)

III. The Extent of Christ's Preeminence

- A. Three sections - creation; hinge; & new creation
 - 1. Structure - two major sections with same elements
 - a. He is (ὅς ἐστιν) - (v15; v18b)
 - b. Firstborn (πρωτότοκος) - (v15; 18)
 - c. Things in heaven & on earth (v16; v20)
 - d. For (ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ) - (v16; v 19) - explaining why
 - e. ἐν, διὰ, εἰς - in/by, through/by, to/for him (v16; 19-20)- NIV11
 - 2. The two halves - creation and the new creation
 - a. Creation - vv15-16
 - 1. Creation, created 3x - v15; v 16a; v16c
 - 2. Heaven and earth - Genesis 1:1
 - b. New creation - vv18-20
 - 1. Resurrection (v18)
 - 2. Reconciliation and peace (v20)
 - c. Hinge (or Janus) section

1. vs 17 - looking back at creation
2. vs 18a - looking forward to new creation

B. Preeminent over creation (vv15-17)

1. He is the sphere of creation (vs 16)
 - a. Creation is 'in' Christ - locative ἐν - v16a - NIV11
 - b. Everything finds reference to Christ
2. Christ is the agent of creation
 - a. Creation is through Christ - v16c - NIV11
 - b. This includes **everything** that was created (v16)
 1. This means Christ was not created
 2. The 'intermediaries' of Gnosticism created by Him
 3. He created and rules - everything - even spirits
3. He is the goal of creation - v16c
 - a. Creation finds its end/goal in Christ - v16c
 - b. Everything is for Him - it is all about Jesus!
4. He is the sustainer of creation (v17)
5. This is total preeminence over this creation!

C. Preeminent over the new creation (vv18-20)

1. He is the beginning/head of new creation (vs 18)
 - a. He is the 'in the beginning' of new creation!
 - b. He is the Head - ἀρχή means both

- c. Also goes back to head (κεφαλή) of the Church
2. He is the reconciler (vs 20)
 - a. Reconciliation, peace through Him
 - b. **All things** find peace in Him - nowhere else

D. He is preeminent in all things (v18c)

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do we see the preeminence of Christ?

1. Do we see that He is preeminent in His Person?
2. Do we see it is really all about Him?
3. Do we see He is ruling and reigning all things?
4. He is not a doddering old fool, but Lord of all!
5. Do we see He holds the universe together?
6. Do we see everything exists in, through, & for Him?

B. Do we live like Christ is preeminent?

1. Is my life centered on Him - or something else?
2. Does He shape my time, passions, goals?
3. Orient towards Him today (unbeliever & believer)

C. Worshipping the Preeminent One (team; describe)

The Preeminence of Christ

Colossians 1:12-20
 March 11, 2012
 Song
 Revelation 1:4-5

They brought the coin, and he asked them, “Whose **portrait** is this? And whose inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. Mark 12:16

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of **Christ, who is the image of God.** 2 Corinthians 4:4

and she gave birth to her **firstborn**, a son. Luke 2:7

I will also **appoint him my firstborn**, the most exalted of the kings of the earth. Psalms 89:27

22 Then say to Pharaoh, “This is what the LORD says: **Israel is my firstborn son**, 23 and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me.” But you refused to let him go; **so I will kill your firstborn son.**” Exodus 4:22–23

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form... Colossians 2:9

NIV2011 Verses

For **in him** all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created **through him** and **for him**. Colossians 1:16

Christ is preeminent:

- before the universe began, now, & in eternity
- in and over creation, and the new creation
- in that He created and He sustains
- in creation and in redemption
- In His Divinity and humanity
- In that all has come from Him and is going to Him
- Worship Him - the Preeminent One!