

Jesus First - Colossians 1:15-20 and 3:12-17

Introduction: Early Christian Hymns -*Philippians 2:5-11, 1 Timothy 3:15, & 2 Timothy 2:11-13*

“Jesus First” because of His _____

Colossians 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God...

A. Who is – Is and always was and always will be (Static present)

B. Image – Greek “eidos” – It means likeness, embodiment and manifestation, the visible image.

1. He is the exact impress of God - *Hebrews 1:3 - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...*

2. He is equal to God - *Philippians 2:6 - Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped...*

3. He is the same as God - *John 14:9 - Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*

4. He is the image of God - *2 Corinthians 4:4 - In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

C. The invisible God - *John 1:18 - No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known. See – 1 Timothy 1:17*

“Jesus First” because of His _____

Colossians 1:15b -the firstborn of all creation.

A. The meaning - First born over all creation – Priority in time and rank not in reference to a literal birth order (Greek “prostokos”)

B. The cross-reference - *Psalm 89:27–28 - And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him.*

“Jesus First” because of His _____

A. He is Pre-eminent in _____ - He is the Creator of all things
Colossians 1:16 - For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

1. The agent of creation – By Him & through Him - *1 Corinthians 8:6 - Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.*

2. The totality of creation – all things - *John 1:3 - All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.*

a. Visible & invisible = temporal and eternal – *2 Corinthians 4:17-18*
b. Thrones.....- Angelic beings – *Ephesians 6:10-12 & Col. 2:15&18*
c. The Lord created all matter and thus it cannot be, as the Gnostics thought, evil

3. The goal of creation – for Him - *Philippians 2:10–11 - So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

B. He is Pre-eminent in _____ - He is the Sustainer of all things
Colossians 1:17 - And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

1. He sustains by His Word - *Hebrews 1:3b - ... and he upholds the universe by the word of his power...*

2. He sustains as His witness - *Acts 14:17 – “Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”*

C. He is Pre-eminent in the _____ - He is the Head of the Church
Colossians 1:18 - *And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.*

1. The fact – head of the body = Source, origin and ruler - *Colossians 2:19* - *And not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. See also Revelation 1:8, 21:6, & 22:13*

2. The goal - *Ephesians 1:22* - *And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,*

D. He is Pre-eminent in _____ - He is Reconciler of all things
Colossians 1:19–20 - *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

1. The agent of reconciliation – *Romans 5:10* - *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*

2. The extent of reconciliation - *2 Corinthians 5:18* - *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;*

3. The instrument of reconciliation – *Colossians 1:21–22* - *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him....*

Today's Takeaways from *Colossians 3:12-17*

_____ the Character of Christ – *Colossians 3:12-14*

Let the Peace of Christ _____ – *Colossians 3:15*

Let the Word of Christ _____ – *Colossians 3:16*

Let the Name of Christ _____ – *Colossians 3:17*

The logo features the words "JESUS" and "FIRST" stacked vertically in a stylized, metallic, 3D font. The letters are interconnected, with "JESUS" above "FIRST".The logo features the words "JESUS" and "FIRST" stacked vertically in a stylized, metallic, 3D font. The letters are interconnected, with "JESUS" above "FIRST".

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Presented by Pastor Dave Watson At Calvary Chapel

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