

Focus passage: Colossians 1:15-23

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **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. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

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. **19** 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.

21 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, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

What stands out to you from this passage?

*Read **Hebrews 1:1-4**. Together with this passage from Colossians, what do these texts say about Jesus? What does he reveal to us?*

*There are similar statements made about Jesus in the gospels. **Read John 14:8-11 and John 20:24-29** and discuss the confessions that the disciples make.*

Do you think you have formed ideas about who God is based on information outside of the Bible? Are you more informed by cultural ideas, classical or philosophical notions of gods, or by Scripture? How can we work to make sure we believe in God as he has shown himself to us, not as we'd imagine him to be?

If Jesus perfectly reveals God to us, what do we learn from the fact that he was willing to come live among us, suffer for us, and die for us?

Is the understanding of God we see in Jesus like any other religions? Are there any other beliefs that you are aware of that include a deity entering creation to endure all that we endure?

How is Christ the head of the body, the church (v18)? How can the church seek to be like its head?

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

