

Re-Centered on Jesus (Colossians 1:15-23)

Ever watch a potter center a lump of clay on the potter's wheel? It's crucial for the clay to be centered or the entire vessel will be lopsided or fall apart. In one of the most beautiful poems written about Jesus, Colossians 1:15-23 has a centering effect on all who read it. We need to be centered again and again so we will treasure Jesus more and more. We're all tempted to try and earn, add to or pursue something beyond him. When we begin to believe he isn't enough, will we allow this breathtaking description of Jesus to re-center us?

1. Jesus is (Colossians 1:15-20)

Jesus is supreme over all creation (Colossians 1:15-17)

JESUS IS the image of the invisible God - 2 Corinthians 4:6; Hebrews 1:3

JESUS IS *the firstborn over all creation* - Psalm 89:27; Colossians 2:9

JESUS IS Creator of ALL things - Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Revelation 22:13; Hebrews 2:10

JESUS IS eternal

JESUS holds all things together

Jesus is supreme over NEW creation (Colossians 1:18-20)

JESUS IS the Head of the Church

JESUS IS the beginning, *the firstborn from the dead*

JESUS IS the place of God's presence - John 1:14

JESUS IS the place of reconciliation

2. Jesus has (Colossians 1:21-23)

"Alienated" = involves isolation, loneliness, a deep sense of not belonging, separation.

Jesus' supremacy and sufficiency is the best protection against error
and the greatest remedy to our brokenness.

3. You must (Colossians 1:23)

V23 *"continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope held out in the gospel..."*

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. The Colossians were tempted to move away from Jesus and devalue him. How does Paul care for and protect the Colossians?
2. What does Colossians 1:15-23 (which is actually a poem) say about Jesus? Does anything stand out to you as new or special? Anything about his description surprise you? *Consider Jesus' supremacy over all creation (VV15-17) and over NEW creation? (VV18-20)
3. In what ways do we try to earn, add to or pursue things outside of God's provision in Jesus? What's the solution to this empty pursuit?
4. We might think, "OK this is an amazing poem but what's in it for me?" Then we read VV21-23. How does it hit you to know that those who are "in Christ" are considered, "holy, blameless and above reproach" before God?
5. What are one or two ways your life is different since you were changed from being alienated from God to being reconciled through Christ's death? If you don't believe you've experienced this reconciliation, what hope do you find in VV 21-23?
6. Colossians 1:23 says, *"continue in your faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope held out in the gospel."* How do we follow this instruction? What will it require?
7. Like clay on a potter's wheel, will you allow this breathtaking description of Jesus to re-center you? Ask the Spirit to re-center your life on Jesus – who he really is and what he accomplished. Then celebrate what is true about Jesus and what that means for you now and forever.