



Lesson Three: "Identity" (Colossians 1:15-23)

Paul Goebel - September 28, 2021

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.

Table Discussion Questions

1. Who or what shapes your identity as a man? What does knowing Jesus Christ have to do with knowing yourself?
2. What attributes of Jesus stand out to you in Colossians 1:15-20? Which of these attributes is most challenging to our cultural understanding of Jesus? Which of these attributes is most comforting to you? Which of these attributes is most difficult for you to truly believe?
3. Who were you apart from Christ? Why is it so important to understand this part of your story in past tense?
4. Who are you in Christ? Why is it sometimes so difficult to claim this identity as your own?
5. What makes us forget who we are? What does it look like to daily remember who we are in Christ? (See Colossians 1:23)