

sermon notes

May 3, 2026 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Preeminence**
“Christ Jesus in the Christ-Hymn” | **Colossians 1:15–20**

Eight Descriptions of Christ in the Christ-hymn of Colossians 1:15–20:

- 1) The _____ of the Invisible God (1:15a)
- 2) The _____ of All Creation (1:15b)
- 3) The _____ of Creation (1:16)
- 4) The _____ Son of God (1:17)
- 5) The _____ of the Church (1:18a)
- 6) The _____ from the Dead (1:18b)
- 7) The _____ One (1:18c-19)
- 8) The _____ (1:20)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Colossians 1:15–20. What is the most striking statement about Christ in this passage of Scripture? Is there anything that clarifies Christ’s identity for you based on this passage? What misunderstandings about Christ circulate in our world?

What does it mean for Christ to be the “firstborn of all creation” (1:15)? Does this mean that Christ was created (born) by God the Father? Why or why not?

How is Jesus’s activity in creation emphasized in this passage? What about Jesus’s activity in redemption? What was the Father’s activity in creation and redemption? How do these two “works” correlate?

GET PERSONAL

Paul probably included this Christ-hymn in his letter to the Colossians because of their low Christology (or perhaps because some were advocating for a lower view of Christ). How does the view of Christ in Colossians 1:15–20 impact your theology? How does it impact your prayer life? How does it shape your understanding of your salvation and Christ’s redemptive work?

Paul mentions Christ’s peacemaking work through blood and through the cross (1:20). How was this peace accomplished? Why was blood necessary? How might this affect the way you receive communion at church? Is communion primarily a time of somber reflection, celebration, or both?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Write out your own “Christ-hymn” in your own words. What Christological pieces from Colossians 1:15–20 would you want to incorporate? What about John 1? What about Hebrews 1? Make sure that your hymn correlates theologically with the NT presentation of Jesus. Personalize it as a piece of poetry or music and then recite it (or sing it!) to the Lord as a prayer.

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

The Greek word for “image” (εἰκῶν) in Colossians 1:15 is used of Christ, but it is also used more broadly of human beings (see 1 Cor 11:7; cf. Gen 1:26–27; Rom 8:29; 1 Cor 15:49; Jas 3:9). How is Christ’s identity as the image of the invisible God different from humanity’s identity as image-bearers? How does this correlate to the Son of God versus the sons of God language in the NT (see John 1:12, 18; 3:16, 35; Matt 11:27; Rom 8:14–17, 29; Gal 3:26; 4:4–7; Col 1:19; Heb 1:1–5; 1 John 3:1)?