



Becoming Christ-Centered

September 1, 2019 ~ Jeremy & Lisa Peters

Colossians 1:15-20 NRSV

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

“Whose life is worth patterning your life after?”

Colossians 1:15a

He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God.

The word “image” in Greek means “likeness, manifestation, or replica.”

Colossians 1:15b

...the firstborn over all creation.

The phrase “firstborn” is most frequently translated as “heir or owner.” The word used here means the “ranking one, or supreme one.” It refers to the right of authority; to primacy, not to chronology.

Colossians 1:16

...for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

Colossians 1:17

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

To “hold together” means to prevent something from falling into complete chaos.

Colossians 1:19-20

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The word “dwell” means to “take up permanent residence.”

That phrase “all His fullness” is a technical term meaning the “sum total of all the divine power and attributes.”

Colossians 1:18

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

Paul says Jesus is the “firstborn from among the dead,” meaning, not that he was the first person to ever be raised from dead, but that he was the first person to be raised from the dead *and not die again*.

Listening prayer questions to discuss with your Apprenticeship Prayer Partner(s):

1. Jesus, is my vision of you diminishing, plateaued or truly growing larger? What aspect of your heart and character do you want to reveal more of to me?
2. Jesus, what is one area in my life that does not yet reflect a ‘Christ-centered’ practice and what are you inviting me to do about it?