

He is...

2/22/09

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.

-Colossians 1:15-21

He is the Image

"the image"-eikon-icon, Matthew 22:20, Rev.13:14, Exodus 20:4

Hebrews 1:3: *"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by His powerful word."*

"exact representation"-charakter: an engraving tool, or stamp

John 14:9: *"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

John 1:14: *"We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

"the firstborn"-prototokos- first in priority and place, not protoktistos-first created.

"Firstborn" here refers to the honor of his position, not to the fact that he was created.

He is the Creator

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

He creates

John 1:1-3: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.

He reigns

Ephesians 1:21: *Christ is, "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come."*

Philippians 2:10 : *"at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,"*

1 Peter 3:22: *"[Christ] has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him."*

He is the Sustainer

17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is the Head

"And he is the head of the body, the church."

"head of the body"- this becomes a hinge-pin for the rest of the book.

We might know all our theology about Jesus and doctrine, but then be found lacking because we are not guided by our head: Jesus Christ. (Matthew 7:19-23)

He is the Redeemer

"He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead"

He is Supreme over all

"that in everything he might be preeminent."

Jesus is Supreme. There is no one above Him, no one more important.

He is Sufficient

"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."

1 John 5:13

Because He is the Image, the Creator, the Sustainer, the Head, and the Redeemer we can know that He is Supreme in all things and Sufficient for everything.

Notes: _____

Works referenced: John MacArthur's Commentary on Colossians and Philemon; Douglass Moo's Commentary on Colossians; The Expositor's Commentary; Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology, Bible Doctrines, and Christian Beliefs; "The 'Christ Hymn' of Colossians 1:15-20" by F.F. Bruce.