

Enough | Bigger Than | Discussion Guide - *Colossians 1:15-23*

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Whether you're religious or not, you probably have some idea of Jesus in your head. This section of Colossians will give you a more complete picture.

Even in the first century, wrong ideas about Jesus were circulating. That's one of the main reasons the Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians. And what he said about Jesus in this little section is the most action-packed text about the nature of Christ in the whole Bible:

Colossians 1:15-21 *Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God...*

Jesus IS GOD

Jesus Reveals the Invisible God

In the physical, visible Jesus, we see all the characteristics of the spiritual, invisible God (**Colossians 1:15**). If you want to know what God is like, look to Jesus.

Jesus Is Fully God

Jesus isn't "God Jr." or "Diet God, Now with 0 Sugar!" He is God with a big "G." The "fullness" of God dwelt in Jesus Christ. The Colossians needed to remember this, and each of us need to remember this, too.

Jesus Is BIGGER THAN CREATION

Jesus Rules Over Creation

Jesus is sovereign over all of creation. This should make us revere him, but it should also give us great comfort because he is for us, not against us.

Everything Was Created Through Him

God spoke everything into existence (**Genesis 1:3**) and part of that creation process was through the "word" – Jesus himself.

John 1:1 *In the beginning the Word [Jesus] already existed.*

Jesus is not created, but creator. God the Father spoke, and Jesus was the agent who carried out creation of both heavenly and earthly things.

Everything Was Made for Jesus

Not only was Jesus active in creating everything, but everything was made for him. This means that the goal of creation is to glorify Jesus. This is what it means that creation is made "for him." This means that for Christians, the goal of everything we do should be Jesus's glory.

Jesus Holds All of Creation Together Right Now

The God of the Bible is not the god of deism, which teaches that God created the world then left it to its own devices. Instead, Jesus sustains creation. He is not on the heavenly sidelines but is directly involved in the administration of everything.

Jesus is BIGGER THAN The Church

Jesus Is the Head of the Church

Your pastor isn't the head of your local church: Jesus is. And the church is much larger than the building you meet in on Sundays. The church, called Jesus's "body," is everyone in all of history who has ever trusted Jesus alone for their salvation and forgiveness. If this describes you, that means Jesus is your head: both your leader as well as your source (like the "head" of a river).

Jesus Reigns Over Death

Jesus defeated death when he went to the cross and was resurrected on the third day. This means death is in subjection to him and it means he has the power to resurrect anyone he wants to whenever he wants to, but he will choose to do this at his second coming.

Jesus Has the Power to Save You

Jesus alone has the power to save all of us. He made peace through his self-sacrifice on the cross. He lived a perfect, sinless life, and because of that, anyone who trusts in him alone for salvation and forgiveness will receive it – period.

Jesus Has the Desire to Save You

Not only can Jesus save us, he wants to. All of us at one time or another were alienated from God. We lived life on our own terms. We rejected God and chose to sin over and over. Jesus should want to destroy us, but he wants to save us because in addition to everything else talked about here, he is love ([1 John 4:16](#)). This should motivate all of us to pursue him with our whole hearts.

Discussion

- What is your initial reaction to this topic? What jumped out at you?
- What was your picture of Jesus when you were a kid? Before you started seriously pursuing God? Where did that picture of Jesus come from?
- Read the list of statements about Jesus. Which one stands out to you most? Why?
- What is your overall impression of Jesus from this passage (Colossians 1:15-23)?
- Read [Colossians 1:15](#). What can we learn about the character of God from Jesus?
- Read [Colossians 1:16-17](#). Describe Jesus's role in the creation of the world at the beginning and today. What does this teach us about God's relationship with the world?
- Read [Colossians 1:19](#). What does this verse say about who Jesus is? How would you explain this verse to someone who has questions about Jesus's identity?
- What's one new thing you learned about Jesus through this topic?

- Write a personal action step based on this conversation.