

The Challenge

Based On: Colossians 1:15-20

September 7, 2014

Overview Colossians 1:15-20

In our society image is everything. Are your clothes in style or are they retro? Did your hair do look good ten years ago but now is considered classic? One reason that image is so important is because the busyness of our society rarely allows people to go deeper relationally than outward appearance. What image do you have of Christ? Do you picture Him as just a good guy? Is He a laid back carpenter with miraculous powers? Do you picture him as being broken and beaten but not risen? The apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church at Colossae describing the image of Christ in relationship to God, creation, and the church. A lot of times our image of Christ is dependent upon our life experiences. Paul wants us to take our own personal filter off and view Christ as God Himself. The beginning of Jesus' story did not start with the Virgin Mary. He was there before any of creation was set into motion. He was there when the sky, land, and sea were created. It was by His death on the cross that He laid the foundation for the church. He sits on His throne in Heaven and will one day return as Judge over all creation.

Bible Study: Colossians 1:15-20

1. Read Colossians 1:15-20. How does the truth behind these verses set Christianity apart from every other religion?
2. Muslims view Jesus as a prophet. What would you say to someone who views Jesus as just a good guy and not God?
3. In what ways do Christians view Christ differently? Some view Him just as a good buddy, while others see Him as the Creator. Do you think there is a difference between how new believers and mature Christians view Christ?
4. Discuss for a few minutes what image of Christ you have had in the past and how you currently view Him.
5. With a lot of emphasis given to the birth of Jesus, why is it important to view Him as the firstborn over all creation?
6. When Christianity is attacked why do people first go after the identity of Christ?
7. Read John 1:1-5. If Jesus is not God then what meaning would His death on the cross have?
8. How can viewing Jesus as God, and not just a good guy, help you during times of temptation?