

Colossians 1:15-17

Sermon - How to tell the real from the fake

G'Joe - 3.5.23

INTRO

- FUN FACT: US Secret Service (started around 1865) was born primarily b/c counterfeit currency. Do you know the MAIN thing that ss does to tell the difference between the real and the fake? They study the real thing!
- Before Paul addresses the Colossian Heresy, he fixes their eyes on the real thing - Jesus!

Christ is God over creation and recreation!

1. Jesus is the resurrected ruler over all
2. Jesus is the uncreated creator of all
3. Jesus is the all sufficient sustainer of all

Heading Christ is God over creation and recreation!

[15](#) *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*

- “Children sometimes ask, ‘Who made God?’ The clearest answer is that God never needed to be made, because he was always there. He exists in a different way from us: we, his creatures, exist in a dependent, derived, finite, fragile way, but our Maker exists in an eternal, self-sustaining, necessary way - necessary, that is, in the sense that God does not have it in him to go out of existence, just as we do not have it in us to live forever. We necessarily age and die, because it is our present nature to do that; God necessarily continues forever unchanged, because it is his eternal nature to do that. This is one of many contrasts between creature and Creator.” ~*J.I. Packer*

Uncreated things	Created things
GOD (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)	Everything else

1. Jesus is the resurrected ruler over all
 - “the firstborn of all creation.” The supremacy of Christ...
Four simple reasons firstborn means Christ is supreme! Preeminent!
 1. The verse you find this part a - he is the image of the invisible god.
 2. What follows this line... entire context! V16
 3. Psalm 89:27 And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. David wasn't the first born king nor to his father jesse's 8 sons.
 4. He wasn't even the first to rise from the dead... V18 *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.*

2. Jesus is the uncreated creator of all

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.

- *“in heaven and on earth, Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”*
- *“visible and invisible” Romans 1:18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*
- *“whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”*
 - *Proverbs 21:1 – “The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.”*
 - *Isaiah 40: 12Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? 13Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? 14Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? 15Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.*

3. Jesus is the all sufficient sustainer of all

- *Col 1: 17And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*
- *He’s not just the creator but Jesus is also the sustainer...*

3 IMPLICATIONS:

1. Jesus is your sustainer, He not your righteousness holds all things together!
2. He is over creation - all the earth, not just sacred spaces (Christian music / movies etc)
 - a. Reject / receive / redeem
3. Jesus being the visible God shows God wants to be known by us!
 - a. Look to Christ - look to the cross!