

SERMON GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Check out your notes from this week's sermon. What stood out?
Were you challenged? Anything you found difficult or disagreed with?

INTRO

What's something you absolutely love? Maybe it's a football team, cars, or a TV series with a deep universe of characters. Whatever it is, describe it in detail.

Easy, right? That ability to explain and elaborate shows how deeply you're able to understand what matters to you. Can you explain Jesus with that same level of detail? If you can talk more clearly about social issues, movies, sports, or the latest controversy than you can about Jesus, then we've identified an idol.

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

What is Paul saying about Christ when he calls him "the image of the invisible God" and "the firstborn of all creation?"

Gnosticism - an early heresy that taught salvation came through secret knowledge ("gnosis") rather than through faith in Christ. Gnostics believed the physical world was evil and that only the spiritual was good. They denied that Jesus was truly human, claiming instead that He was a purely spiritual being who only appeared human.

- How is Colossians 1:15–20 a theological punch in the mouth to Gnosticism?

Arianism - 4th-century heresy started by a man named Arius, who taught that Jesus was a created being. Greater than humans but less than God. Arius claimed, "There was a time when the Son was not." In other words, he denied that Jesus was eternal or equal with the Father.

- How does Colossians 1:15–20 unapologetically refute Arianism?

- Heresy doesn't usually announce itself. It sneaks in with familiar words and new meanings. What modern "Christian" denominations, cults, or teachings minimize either the divinity or humanity of Jesus in ways that echo Gnosticism or Arianism?

TAKEAWAYS

THE SCRIPTURES TESTIFY TO CHRIST'S SUPREMACY

Matthew 13:45-46; John 5:39-40

When you read the Bible, do you look for Christ in its pages—or just information, comfort, or rules?

How does your current view of Jesus line up with the way Scripture presents Him from Genesis to Revelation? Do you tend to "scale Him down" in any area of your life or thinking?

OUR LIVES MUST TESTIFY TO CHRIST'S SUPREMACY

Romans 11:33-36; 12:1; Colossians 1:15-17

Is Christ supreme in every area of your life? Think about your relationships, your work, your priorities, and your habits. Share with each other and be honest and specific. Spend a few minutes praying together. Ask God to help you remove anything that rivals Christ's supremacy in your life.