

:: summary

Discipleship is an all-in commitment, with the goal of becoming more and more like the master a disciple follows. Christianity involves that same commitment, so if we are to become true disciples of Jesus and devote ourselves to growing in his likeness, we need to know who our master is and why we would choose to follow him. Last week, we looked at who Jesus is as the fully human manifestation of God with us, and this week we focus on who Jesus is as the fully divine Son of God, the Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer of the universe.

:: discussion

We all seek out and make conscious choices in determining the sources of authority in our lives. No person exists in a vacuum. All of us turn to someone or something outside of ourselves when we have questions or need advice, when we are struggling or need help, when we are looking for support or hope. When real life happens for better or worse, where do you go? Who or what do you turn to?

Who or what are the source(s) of authority in your life and why?

Read Colossians 1:15-17

These 3 verses make several significant claims about Jesus, regarding who he is, what he is like, what he has done and what he is doing, all within the theme of his absolute supremacy. Remember, those in the early church didn't have the New Testament as we know it, and would have heard this letter from Paul read aloud, preached and discussed.

With that in mind, what conclusions can be made from a commonsense reading of these claims about Jesus' supremacy, and what connections can be made to other passages in Scripture?

Read Colossians 1:18

By his resurrection from the grave, Jesus is the firstborn from among the dead who has opened the possibility of eternal, resurrection life for all who put their faith in him and his power over death. Jesus' supremacy is demonstrated in his defeat of death and ability to give life. He alone is the one who offers the hope that death does not have the last word.

Are you able to follow Jesus as your sufficient Savior, the One who has already taken care of your sin? Do you at times strive to earn your own salvation? How does this verse inform this conversation?

Read Colossians 1:19-20

After God created the universe and natural order through Jesus in all its perfection, humanity's rejection of God's authority and rebellion against Him corrupted His creation and broke the peace and wholeness in His relationship with humanity. Jesus is the one who came to restore that peace between us and God and make reconciliation between Him and us possible, so that by faith we can enjoy eternal life with him forever.

What qualifications are listed in these verses for Jesus as the head of the church and as a master for us to follow?

Jesus, the Creator of the universe, the supreme King over all authorities in heaven and earth, in whom all things hold together, this cosmic ruling and reigning Jesus invites you to follow him and become like him. Jesus, the eternal Son of God invites you into a discipleship relationship with him, that you might know him more personally and come to reflect his likeness.

