

WARM-UP: Engage (“Together”)

1. In a few sentences, tell us about a person or group who has encouraged your relationship with God? (**leader example** “Aaron’s example of the Moravians”)
2. In a few sentences, share your favorite attribute about Jesus? (**leader example** “I love that Jesus is merciful and when I have messed up He comes to be more kind than I expect”)

WORD: Establish (“Truth”)

Leader: Questions below (a.b.c) should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage will answer them as well.

1. **Read** Colossians 1:15-17
 - a. What does this passage tell us about Jesus’ nature and actions?
2. **Read** Colossians 1:18 (ESV, if able):
 - a. What might it mean that Jesus is “preeminent in all things?”
3. **Read** Colossians 1:19-20
 - a. To what ends and purpose does God’s fullness dwell in Jesus?
4. **Read** Colossians 1:21-22
 - a. What impact does Jesus’ reconciling work have on our lives/relationships/our world?
5. **Read** Colossians 1:23
 - a. How is this contingent on our living in to it? In what three ways are we to “remain”?
6. **Sermon Recap (if helpful):** Aaron shared how God reigns supreme over and above anything else in our lives/world. How the nature of Jesus calls us to relate to and trust God as “occupying the first place in everything”(CBE). He asked us to consider 5 of the 12 attributes of Jesus in Colossians 1:15-23. To explore where they aren’t lived as true in our lives, and to remain “Stable, Steadfast, Not Shifting” (v. 23) in prayer and active service of Christ in “our new normal”.

BONUS: Scriptures to unpack the 5 attributes of Jesus, Aaron noted in Colossians 1:15-23:

- 1) **Image:** “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9)
- 2) **Creator:** “All things came into being through Him.....” (John 1:3)
- 3) **Sustainer:** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of..” (Hebrews 1:3)
- 4) **Preeminent:** (Psalm 113:2-3) (Psalm 148:1-5)
- 5) **Reconciler:** (2 Corinthians 5:19-21, v. 11-18 as well.)

APPLICATION: Equip (“Way”)

1. What part of this teaching by Paul challenges your relationship with God/your actions today?
2. How are you encouraged to/will you live differently today/this week, as a result?
3. Ask group members to accept Aaron’s challenge to either 1) meditate on an attribute of Jesus from Colossians 1:15-23 OR 2) to pray Colossians 1:9-14 over yourself and others this week.

PRAYER Empower (“Life” in the Spirit)

1. How can we pray/hold you accountable to “have Christ as preeminent” in “our new normal”?