

The Inner Circle

Jesus

Colossians 1:15-20

New Series: For the next few weeks, we will look at four men who made up Jesus' inner circle: Jesus, Peter, James, & John. As we study their lives as described in scripture, we will gain a greater understanding of who they were, how God used them, & what they accomplished.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 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. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 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. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross." **Colossians 1:15-20**

Main Idea: Jesus Deserves to Be at the Center of Every Inner Circle

Two Reasons to Put Jesus in the Center of Your Inner Circle: Colossians 1:15-20

I. His Identity – Vs. 15, 17-19

"They said Jesus could be prominent, but he certainly wasn't preeminent. In contrast, Paul – along with telling believers the truth about the gospel and pleasing God – tells us the truth about Jesus." **Max Anders**

Jesus' Identity:

- **Image of the Invisible God:** reflection of the sun on the water
- **Firstborn of all creation:** speaks to importance, not order (prototype)
- **Before all things:** in front of everything else
- **In him all things hold together:** everything stands because of him
- **Head of the body, the church:** top of the organization
- **Beginning, firstborn, preeminent:** chief, first rank
- **Fullness of God dwells:** permanence of presence and power of God

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." **Matthew 6:33**

II. His Activity – Vs. 16, 20

Christ's Work

- **Creative (vs. 16)**

"All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men." **John 1:3-4**

• **Redemptive (vs. 20)**

"Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God." **Romans 5:9**

There will come a day when the only thing that will matter is not money, diamonds, comfort, self-righteousness, or anything else. It will be this: Are we in Christ, and have we centered our lives on him?

We are invited to consider the identity of Jesus and the activity of Jesus that can lead us to no other conclusion than...

Jesus Deserves to Be at the Center of Every Inner Circle

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations* – Charles R. Swindoll (1998)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson, R.T. France (1994)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Editor Trevin Wax (2017)
- *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* – Richard J. Erickson (1995)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians & Colossians* – Max Anders (1999)

