



SERMON

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WEEK 3: Colossians 1:15-20

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Now, read Colossians 1:15-20 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Was there anything that you didn't understand? Discuss.
- 4) This passage, Douglas Moo says "is one of the christological high points of the New Testament and provides a critical basis for the teaching of the letter." ¹ As a group, list each of the truths about Jesus that these verses teach.
- 5) Sometimes, we wrongly have the idea that the God presented in the Old Testament is different from the God presented in the New Testament. However, verse 15 says that Jesus is the "image of the invisible God." In other words, if there is confusion about what God is like, Jesus helps us to understand. He is God, and He and the Father are one. Does realizing this truth help you think about God differently? Discuss.
- 6) In verse 15, Jesus is said to be "the firstborn of all creation." At first glance, this seems to mean that Jesus was the first created being. However, this misunderstanding (sometimes called Arianism) was condemned as heresy at the council of Nicea in 325AD. Instead, the idea in this text is that Jesus is "supreme over creation." If Jesus is supreme over creation, this includes our lives. How do you struggle to let Jesus be supreme in your life?
- 7) Verse 17 says that in Jesus "all things hold together." The universe holds together because Jesus holds it together. Gravity works because Jesus makes it work. The sun perfectly heats the earth because Jesus made it work that way. Finally, our lives hold together because Jesus holds them together. In what area(s) of your life do you feel your deep need of Jesus? How is he holding you together?

- 8) Verse 20 explains that Jesus is reconciling all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross. However, you and I are not naturally reconciled to God—our sin separates us from God. But on the cross, Jesus took the punishment we deserved, and instead gave us his righteousness. This is how Jesus makes peace through the blood of his cross. And we receive this gift of reconciliation by faith. Take time to discuss with your group when you first came to know Jesus and were reconciled to Him.

- 9) End your time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help apply to your life what you've been learning and discussing.

¹ Douglas J. Moo, [The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2008), 107.