

Who Is Number One?

*Who's number one in your life? Who or what is most important to you?

I. The Preeminence of Christ (Col. 1:15-20)

The word, preeminence, means “superiority, especially, in noble and excellent qualities” and “what is over and above” (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

Col. 1:15-16 -¹⁵ He is the **image** of the invisible God, the **firstborn over all creation**.¹⁶ For by **Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

A. To Know Christ Is to Know God (1:15)

Image – includes the idea of representation or manifestation

Hebrews 1:3³ who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power

John 14:9⁹ Jesus said to him, “**He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?**”

Firstborn – first in rank and importance (not the first of creation- cultic teaching);

Psalms 89:27²⁷ Also I will make him *My* firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.

(in reference to Solomon, who we know is not the firstborn son of David)

B. Christ Created All Things (1:16)

1. In Heaven, In Earth - Everything
2. Visible and Invisible - Everything

John 1:3³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Warren Wiersbe - For centuries, the Greek philosophers had taught that everything needed:

1. a primary cause (the plan)
2. an instrumental cause (the power)
3. a final cause (the purpose)

When it comes to Creation, Jesus Christ is the primary cause (He planned it), the instrumental cause (He produced it), and the final cause (He did it for His own pleasure).¹

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 116). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

C. Christ Is Eternal (before all things) and Sustains (1:17)

¹⁷ And **He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.** ¹⁸ And He is the **head** of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Consist – to set together;

D. Christ Is Head (of the church - 1:18)

Head- source and origin; leader, ruler or top;

E. Christ Is the Firstborn of the Dead –(First to Resurrect w Immortal Body; 1:18)

F. Christ Has the Fullness of God in Him (v. 19)

¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father that* in Him **all the fullness should dwell,** ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

| Preeminence of Christ – Colossians 1:15-20 | |
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| Characteristic of Christ | |
| 1. Image of the Invisible God (v. 15) | To know Christ, is to know God |
| 2. Firstborn over Creation (v. 15) | Superior or over all Creation |
| 3. All things were created by Him (v. 16) | He was before and made all things for Him; Christ isn't a creation; He holds them all together |
| 4. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church (v. 18) | He is over the Church, gifts, uses, cleanses, cares, nourishes (His Bride) |
| 5. The Beginning, the firstborn of the dead (v. 18) | The first to raise in an immortal body and will raise us someday too |
| 6. God's fullness dwells in Christ (v. 19) | In Christ, you see God in full or completely- everything is entrusted to Him; rt. hand of God |

II. The Challenge of Making Christ Preeminent in Our Lives (Col 1:21-23)

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

A. **You** – what is your response?

***How do we make Christ preeminent in our lives?**

B. **Cleanse (Ps. 119:9)**

1. **Hezekiah walked in the ways of King David (“a man after God’s own heart”)**

2 Kings 18:3 ³ And **he did *what was right in the sight of the LORD***, according to all that his father David had done.

2 Chronicles 29:2 ² **And he did *what was right in the sight of the LORD***, according to all that his father David had done.

*What does “he did what was right in the sight of the Lord”? How do we know what is “right” or not?

*Do you seek to do “what is right in the sight of the Lord”?

Psalm 119:9–11

⁹ How can a young man **cleanse** his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

¹⁰ **With my whole heart** I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

*Have you struggled with pornography?

*Have you been struggling with greed? Has things and money been more important than your relationship with God or your family?

*Have you been dealing with pride?

*Have you been bitter because things didn’t go your way?

*Have you been self-centered and not thinking about your family, spouse, kids or parents?

C. **Determine (Ps. 119:10)**

v. 10- with your whole heart! You have to be determined. It won’t work if you do it half-heartedly. You have to give your full attention to want to be cleansed. God brought judgment on rebellious Israel by sending fiery serpents to bite them (Num. 21:4-9). They could be healed if they looked at the Bronze Serpent on a pole that God provided. Kept with them through Hezekiah.

- Bronze serpent brought healing, but over time, man turned it to a superstitious idol

2 Kings 18:4 ⁴ He removed the high places and broke the *sacred* pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.

Hezekiah got rid of it. It was a precious reminder of God's healing power in the Wilderness, but it became a stumbling block for worship in Judah, so Hezekiah destroyed it.

***What may you need to destroy in your life to make Christ preeminent?**

D. Fill (Ps. 119:11)

¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Fill it up with God's Word.

Read it, listen to it and live it

Memorize verses so you can engraft it into your soul

Listen to it- podcast

Good edifying book

Conclusion-

1. The Scripture show us that Christ is already preeminent. God the Father gave Him that position. To know the Son is to know the Father. Christ was involved in Creation, is the Head of the Church, was the first to be resurrected and in Him all fullness dwells.
2. Are you giving him first place in your life? Is there a high place or idol holding you back from making him #1? Get rid of it.
3. Can you decide, **with your whole heart**, that you will walk right before our Lord? What may it take for you to give your whole heart to something?
4. How can you fill your heart with God's Word better?