

Filled, Complete, Whole
(Week 2)
Because of the Supremacy of Jesus

SMALL TALK

1. When have you felt empty, depleted, and lacking whatever it was that you needed? What brought this about?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Colossians 1:15-20.** What is clear in this passage is that Jesus is completely supreme, and sufficient. Which phrases grab your attention?
3. Colossians 1:15-20 is written in classic Hebrew poetic form, and may have been sung as a hymn. Where did its theology of the deity of Christ come from? (Numbers 12:8; Hebrews 11:27; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 27:63-64; Ezekiel 1:26-28; John 1:18; 14:9; 15:24; 1 Cor. 4:4-6; Psalm 89:24; **John 1:14; 3:16; 8:19, 23, 28, 38, 58**; 1 Cor. 8:6)

GETTING PERSONAL

4. What difference does an accurate understanding of Jesus make for a person who is feeling “empty”, or “broken”?
5. Why is worshipping the one who is deserving of all glory, honor, and power important and helpful? (Ephesians 1:21; Revelation 5:1-14) Why is worshipping together with his congregation commanded? (see Colossians 3:16)

PRACTICE!

6. What else struck you from your personal "Training in the Word" through Colossians this week?

November 14, 2021

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Psychologist Madeline Levine has been counseling teenagers for over 25 years, but recently Levine has begun to see a new breed of unhappy teenagers—smart, successful, and privileged kids who feel utterly lost and empty. For Levine, one client in particular typified this kind of unhappy teenager. Late on a Friday afternoon—the last appointment of her week—Levine saw a 15-year-old girl who was "bright, personable, highly pressured by her adoring, but frequently preoccupied ... parents." The girl was also "very angry."

Levine quickly recognized the girl's "cutter disguise"—a long-sleeve t-shirt pulled halfway over her hand, with an opening torn in the cuff for her thumb. Such t-shirts are used to hide self-mutilating behaviors: cutting with sharp instruments, piercing with safety pins, or burning with matches. When the young girl pulled back her sleeve, Levine was startled to find that the girl had used a razor to carve the following word onto her forearm—"EMPTY."

Levine commented:

I tried to imagine how intensely unhappy my young patient must have felt to cut her distress into her flesh The most common thing I hear in my office from the kids is, "I'm fake." The surface of [their family life] always looks good The lawns are always perfectly manicured, the houses always look beautiful. But when you get to what's going on beneath these kids' T-shirts, there's not much happening inside.

Madeline Levine, The Price of Privilege (Harper Perennial, 2008), pp. 3-5;

I know someone who can fill the emptiness inside. His name is Jesus. Today we learn that who he is, is what made what he did, possible.

We are about to read one of the most powerful passages in the whole Bible about who Jesus is.

I. WHO he is, made WHAT he did, POSSIBLE

Colossians 1:15–20 (NIV) The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

These statements come from Old Testament concepts, and applying them to Jesus who is the one to whom these statements are about.

SHOW The Bible Project VIDEO on “God.mp4” trinity (8 Minutes 10 seconds)

Our Lord Jesus Christ Described

- Our Lord Jesus Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ is the heir of all creation
 - (the word “Firstborn” is used in the sense of Hierarchical RANK of position) used in 1:15, and 1:18.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ existed before anything was created.
 - He claimed to be the self existent “I Am” (John 8) This is what God said he is to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3)
- Our Lord Jesus Christ is supreme over all creation.
- It was through Jesus, the Son, that God created everything, the realms and realities we can see and the realities and realms we cannot see.
- All powers and kingdoms are subservient to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Jesus existed before anything else existed.
- Jesus holds all creation together.
- Jesus is the head of the church which is his body.
- Jesus is the beginning, and supreme over all who rise from the dead.
- Jesus is first and foremost in everything.
- It is through Jesus that God reconciled everything to himself.
- It is through Jesus that peace between heaven and earth is made and this through Christ's blood shed on the cross.

This description of his deity and supremacy was full blown immediately after he was crucified, then raised from the dead. Many scholars refer to this as a hymn that has already been circulated and sung for a while!

II. Jesus REVEALS God

Colossians 1:15 (NIV) The Son is the image of the invisible God...

If you want to know God personally, get to know Jesus.

SHOW The Bible Project VIDEO on The Image of God (5 Minutes 19 seconds)

Jesus perfectly reveals God, and uniting with Jesus fills us!

III. Jesus RECONCILES us to God

Colossians 1:18-20 (NIV) he [JESUS] is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

In everything Jesus is to have supremacy (1:18).

- Have you given him the first place position **in everything?**
- Have you given him the first place position **in your life?**
- Have you given him the first place position **In your marriage?**

- Have you given him the first place position **In your work?**
- Have you given him the first place position **In your time?**
- Have you given him the first place position **In your finances?**
- Have you given him first place position **In your love and in your relationships?**
- **It is because of who he is that this is the only rational thing to do!**

GOOD NEWS:

This word “reconciled” (1:20) means to restore from the condition of hostility back to a position of peace with God, to experience his love, acceptance, and forgiveness.

Who Jesus is, made what he did possible!

Christ sends none away empty except those who are full of themselves;
Christ fills those who are empty and look to him to be filled.

Look to Him!
Keep the SON in your eyes.
Look to Jesus in every way,
in every day,
and all the way.