

# **Portraits of the Magnificent Christ (Part Three)**

## **Paul's View of Jesus (Colossians 1:15-20)**

Dr. Jim Cecy

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.”  
(Colossians 1:15-20)

### **Review of Part One and Two**

Portrait #1 Christ: The Visible Image of the Invisible God "And He is the image of the invisible God..." Colossians 1:15

Portrait #2 Christ: The First-Born of All Creation "... the firstborn of all creation." Colossians 1:15

Portrait #3 Christ: The Divine Creator "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things have been created through Him and for Him." Colossians 1:16

Portrait #4 Christ: The Worship-Deserving Creator "For by Him all things were created...all things have been created through Him and for Him." Colossians 1:16

Portrait #5 Christ: The Pre-Incarnate One "And He is before all things..." Colossians 1:17

Portrait #6 Christ: The Sustainer of the Universe "...and in Him all things hold together." Colossians 1:17

Portrait #7 Christ: The Head of the Body, the Church "He is also head of the body, the church..." Colossians 1:18

Portrait #8 Christ: The Beginning "He is the beginning..." Colossians 1:18

Portrait #9 Christ: The First-Born from the Dead "He is...the first-born from the dead..." (Colossians 1:18)

Portrait #10 Christ: The Pre-Eminent One "...so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything." Colossians 1:18

### **Now in Part Three**

#### **Portrait #11 Christ: Fully God**

“For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him.” Colossians 1:19

*Omnipotent • Omni-present • Creator • Eternal • Holy • Unchanging*

Literal Translation = "because in Him was well-pleased all the fullness to dwell"

Colossians 2:9 “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form”

#### **Who is Jesus Christ...**

##### **• ...in Christian Science doctrine?**

Jesus is the human man and Christ is the Divine Idea. He is not eternal...not one with the Father...merely a reflection of God. They clearly deny the trinity.

##### **• ...in Jehovah’s Witness doctrine?**

Jesus was the first son Jehovah brought forth...the first creation of God. He is not divine. In fact, Michael the Archangel is the only begotten Son of God...and is now Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is not one with God with the Father. They, too, clearly deny the trinity.

##### **• ...in Mormon doctrine?**

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are NOT one in substance or personage. Among the spirit children of Elohim, the firstborn was Jehovah, who is Jesus Christ. By obedience and devotion Jesus attained the pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God. Every man who reigns in celestial glory is a god.

(Adapted from “The Spirit of Truth and The Spirit of Error” compiled by Keith Brooks, revised and edited by Irvine Robertson and published by Moody Bible Institute of Chicago)

#### **Proofs Regarding the Deity of Christ**

(Adapted from my doctrinal outline: "Is Jesus Christ Really God?")

##### **1. Jesus Christ is declared to be fully God**

He was declared to be so by the Apostle John and the Apostle Paul and the Apostle Thomas (who said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28)). He was declared to be so even by God the Father Himself who called His Son "Immanuel", meaning "God with us."

##### **2. Jesus Christ declared Himself to be fully God**

For example, in John 8:58 Jesus said "Before Abraham was, I am"...the very name of God given to Moses in the Book of Exodus. The crowd knew exactly what He meant. In the next verse they are picking up stones to kill Him for declaring Himself to be God.

### 3. The character and works of Jesus Christ declare Him to be fully God

- God alone is to be worshipped...yet Heb. 1:6 and other scriptures tell us that Jesus Christ is to be worshipped.
- God alone is eternal yet Micah 5:26 tells us that Christ is eternal.
- God alone is without sin yet John 8:46 tells us Jesus Christ is without sin.
- God alone is unchanging yet Heb. 13:8 tells us Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.
- Only God can forgive sins yet Jesus Christ forgave sin (Mk. 2:5-7; Mt. 9:1-6).
- Only God can create yet Christ created the universe (Colossians 1:15-17).

The only possible conclusion: Jesus Christ is not “a god” or less than God. Jesus Christ is fully God — as is the Father — as is the Holy Spirit.

Our Confession: "Lord Jesus. You are Christ: Fully God"

### Portrait #12 Christ: The Reconciler

"...and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven." Colossians 1:20; cf. Col. 1:21-23 re: the fruit of redemption  
It was only Jesus Christ who would and could save us from a much-deserved eternity in Hell.

**The scope of this reconciliation** = “all things...things on earth or things in heaven.” (Col. 1:20)

It was only Jesus Christ who would and could bring us and a sinfully corrupted universe back into right relationship with its Holy Creator!

2 Peter 3:13 “...we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”

**The vehicle for this reconciliation** = "the blood of Christ" (Col.1:20; cf. Romans 5:1, 10)

Our Confession: "Lord Jesus, You are Christ: The Reconciler"

### Conclusion:

The Apostle Peter’s Great Confession of Faith (c. 30 A.D.)

"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God...upon this rock I will build My Church." (Matthew 16:16,18)

The Apostle’s Creed (c. 180 A.D.)

The Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)

The Athanasian Creed (6th Century)

The Belgic Confession of Faith (1561)

The Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

The Canons of Dort (1619)

The Westminster Catechism of Faith (1647)

The Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647)

Our Campus Bible Church Confession of 2012  
(Based on Paul’s View of Christ in Colossians 1:15-20)

"Thou art the Christ . . ."

- The Visible Image of the Invisible God
- The First-Born of all Creation
- The Divine Creator
- The Worship-Deserving Creator
- The Pre-Incarnate One
- The Sustainer of the Universe
- The Head of the Body, the Church
- The Beginning
- The First-Born from the Dead
- The Pre-Eminent One
- Fully God
- The Reconciler

**"Christ is not valued at all unless He is valued above all."**

(Aurelius Augustine of Hippo, North Africa 13 November 354 – 20 August 430)

**All for the glory of Christ...**

## Prayer Requests:



# Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 29, 2012

SERMON SERIES: COLOSSIANS

Message Title: "Portraits of the Magnificent Christ – Part 3"

Dr. Jim Cecy

April 29, 2012

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Food is a big part of most of our lives. If you had to give up a favorite food, which one would be the most difficult for you to give up? What is one food you'd be happy never to eat again?
2. Outside of your parents, who are the people that have had the greatest influence on you?
3. What did you find most helpful, challenging or interesting from this week's message?

### Campus Bible Church

For more information about the Growth Group ministry @ Campus,  
Visit [www.campusbiblechurch.com/growthgroups](http://www.campusbiblechurch.com/growthgroups)  
or contact Pastor Kenton Rahn – [kentonrahn@campusbiblechurch.com](mailto:kentonrahn@campusbiblechurch.com).

Sunday Messages and Notes:

Find at: [www.campusbiblechurch.com/messages](http://www.campusbiblechurch.com/messages)

Weekly Growth Group Homework:

Find at: [www.campusbiblechurch.com/homework](http://www.campusbiblechurch.com/homework)

Campus Bible Church Podcast:

Search iTunes podcasts: **Campus Bible Church**

Campus Bible Church | 4710 N. Maple Ave. | Fresno, CA 93726 | Office: 559.291.9116

## DIGGING DEEPER

4. This week we finished looking at twelve portraits of the Magnificent Christ. Colossians 2:9 declares: "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." How do the following verses ascribe Deity to Christ?

- Revelation 1:17-18 (cf. Isa 44:6; Rev 22:12-16)
- 1 Timothy 6:13-16 (cf. Deut 10:17; Rev 19:11-16)
- John 5:16-27
- John 10:22-33

5. In *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis wrote: "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic--on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg--or he would be the devil of hell. You must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us." Do you agree or disagree with Lewis' "trilemma" – that Jesus has to be either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord? Please explain.

6. Pastor Jim referred to several Creeds and Confessions from Church history. Do you think creeds are valuable? Necessary? What authority do you think they have in the Church?

The following quotations from John Leith may be helpful in your discussion:

- "The creed is simply the Church's understanding of the meaning of Scripture. The endeavor to have no creed but the Bible is successful only so long as there is common agreement as to what the Bible teaches."
- "The task of the creed was to defend the Church against heresy... shutting the heretic out and setting the boundaries within which authentic Christian theology and life can take place."

## TAKING IT HOME

7. What do you think about Augustine's statement: "Christ is not valued at all unless He is valued above all"? Read Matthew 13:44-45 and apply it to your relationship with Christ.
8. Write out a prayer thanking Christ for who He is and what He has done for you.