

Colossians: Jesus is First | Week 10

COLOSSIANS 1:19-23

19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Introduction

>> **Begin by reading 1:19-23**

Do you ever wonder what the Father thinks about all this “Jesus is First” stuff? I mean, in the Trinity, the Father is the head, right? Scripture says that Jesus submits to the Father, that the Father is the one who sends Jesus on mission into the world. So shouldn’t the series and our focus be, “The Father is First”?

>> **GRAPHIC: “the Father is First” (Jesus is First crossed out?)**

Verse 19 helps answer this question... “For in him (JESUS) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell”

This tells us a couple things:

1. Jesus is fully God. (We’ve camped here already in recent weeks...)
cf. Colossians 2:9 – “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.”

This “fullness” language is reminiscent of the OT, where it was said that God “filled” the temple with his presence. For instance the prophet Ezekiel exclaims, “I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple” (Ezekiel 44:4). Jesus not only bears God’s glory, but all that God is also dwells in him. He possesses the wisdom, power, Spirit, and glory of God. To say that all this divine fullness dwells in Jesus is to say that he is fully God.¹ (See also Isa. 6:3; Jer. 23:23)

2. The Father is PLEASED with his Son.

>> **THE FATHER’S JOY IS IN JESUS**

¹ Note taken from ESV Study Bible note on Col. 1:19

1. The Father's Joy is in JESUS

Isaiah 42:1-4

- 1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
- 3 a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.

Matthew 3:16-17 – This is my son

Luke 3:21-22, Mark 1:9-11 – You are my son

Parents absolutely delight in their children... (example of experiencing my parents pleasure...)

This week in your 1:10 Groups, one of the discussion questions is to list a time you experienced sheer pleasure in your kids. Or if you're not a parent, a time you can remember that your parents expressed their pleasure in you!

Maybe you're coming from a hard family background and that thought isn't a pleasant one, because you can't think of a time your parents expressed their pleasure toward you. There's great news for you, then, in the gospel.

1John 2:28-3:3

28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. **29** If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. **3** And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Ephesians 1:3-10

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** ***he predestined us for adoption*** as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Preaching Notes – Colossians 1:19-23

IF YOU ARE IN CHRIST... YOU ARE GOD'S PLEASURE!

For those who have trusted Jesus Christ, then, they become children of God!!! And you're looked on with the same pleasure that God looks upon his own son. You're *hidden in Christ!*
Hear some of the things the Bible says, then, about you, his child...

Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

Psalms 147:11

but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

John 1:9

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

>> THE FATHER'S HEART IS PEACE

2. The Father's Heart is PEACE

..not to judge and destroy, but to reconcile.

There's always a battle to achieve peace. Our sin has declared war on God, but his heart is for peace.

"and through him to *reconcile* to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, *making peace* by the blood of his cross."

Reconciliation – literally "**to meet again**" or "**afresh**" — "**to restore friendly relations between**" –
TO RESTORE PEACE

Who does the reconciling? Us or God? → GOD DOES IT!!!

"God of Peace"...

Romans 15:33, 16:19-20, Philippians 4:9, 1 Thess. 5:23, Heb. 13:20

Romans 5:8

>> THIS PEACE IS PROVIDED THROUGH JESUS

3. PEACE is Provided Through JESUS

v. 20

In the beginning, God created all things through Christ (v. 16) and in the end he will reconcile all things through Christ (v. 20).

The blood = violent death (Matt. 23:30, 35; Rev. 6:10; 19:2)

The cross = shame and humiliation (Phil. 2:8). The head of the church was shamefully crucified (Col. 2:9, 14, 20, 3:3).

But the last lines of this verse affirm God's love. His ultimate purpose is not to judge and destroy, but to reconcile and make peace! (Rom. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 5:19)

Blood also refers to Jesus' atoning sacrifice.

v. 22 **παραστήσαι** "to present you" – same word used for legal proceeding. To present you before the court.

Romans 14:10 says that we will all stand before the judgment seat of Jesus.

Romans 14:10

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother?
For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;

EPHESIANS 2:11-17

v. 21 "hostile in mind"

mind = "dianoia" → translates "heart" from the OT in the LXX. (Gen. 8:21; 24:45)

HEART & MIND are often interchangeable

"doing evil deeds"

Proverbs 4:23 – "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."

Jesus talks about this in Matthew 12:33-37

To be reconciled to God, then, isn't about something we do, it's about what Jesus has done.

Matthew 10:34 – peace is only given to those who trust Jesus Christ

PERSEVERANCE

John 13:15

For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

Ephesians 4:20

But that is not the way you learned Christ!—

1John 2:6

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Preaching Notes – Colossians 1:19-23

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**In our sin, every one of us is royally messed up. Our only hope is JESUS
Repenting of our sin, turning to him in faith, and walking with him for a
lifetime**

“Come to me you who are weak and heavy laden... and I will give you peace.” Matthew 11:28-30

Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

John 5:39-40

39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, **40** yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

John 6:37

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

John 7:37

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

Luke 11:46

And he said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers.

Matthew 23:4

They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

1John 2:6

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Jeremiah 6:16

Thus says the LORD:
“Stand by the roads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way is; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls.
But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’

1John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.