

12. Learning to Explain Why Christ Is Superior to All

In our last topic, we saw that we want to show our physical and spiritual children how to pray for others. Paul gave an example about the way to pray for others by the six things that he prayed for the Christians in the city of Colosse. As we study the different prayers of Paul for Christians in the various cities, we are given many examples for our own lives to help us know how to show our children how to pray for others. Today, we are going to see that Paul showed us how to help our children understand that Christ is superior to all.

We saw in our last topic that Paul prayed for the Christians in Colosse. Here, we see that he goes on to tell what God did for us. Colossians 1:13-14 says, “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” The word that is translated “delivered” means *to rescue*. The word is used three times in 2 Corinthians 1:9-10 where we read, “Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver *us*.” We see that we were rescued or delivered from the power of darkness. God removed us from the power of darkness and moved us into His kingdom. As a result, we now enjoy fellowship with the Son of His love (Christ).

It is through Christ that we have received redemption. The word “redemption” has three parts. It means *to buy back, to remove from further sale and to set free*. Christ paid the price to buy us back from sin. He removed us from the bondage of sin. He set us free so that we do not need to ever fear the eternal consequences of sin again. The price that Christ paid to redeem us and buy us back from sin was His own blood. That is why He died for us. The Father showed that He was satisfied with the payment by raising Christ from the dead. As a result, when Satan accuses us of sin, 1 John 2:1-2 says that Christ is our Advocate or defense attorney who tells the Father that He paid for our sin and that we accepted the payment by coming to Him in faith. The Father will always answer regardless of how many times Satan accuses us that He is satisfied with the payment so the case is dismissed. “Forgiveness” means that *God no longer holds our sin against us*.

Colossians 1:15-18 says, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 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.” The word that is translated “image” means *the exact image or likeness*. Christ used a coin to illustrate the meaning of image. Christ said in Luke 20:24-25, “‘Show Me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have?’ They answered and said, ‘Caesar's.’ And He said to them, ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.’” Christ is the exact image of the Father because He is God and has the exact form of God.

We see in verse fifteen that Christ is the firstborn over all creation. In verse eighteen, Christ is

called the firstborn from the dead. Here, we see that Christ is the firstborn in rank or position. This same word is used in Romans 8:29 where we read, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” The Father determined before He ever created the world to conform us to the image of His Son so that Christ would continue to have the preeminence over all of us because He is the first in rank even though we are conformed to His image.

In addition to being in the very image of the Father, it was by Christ that all things were created both in heaven and in earth. John 1:1-3 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” Then John 1:14 tells us that Christ is the Word when it says, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Many false teachers try to deny that Christ is God. Since Christ created all things both in heaven and earth, it is impossible for Him to create Himself. In addition, these verses tell us that Christ was in the beginning with God. That is why 1 John 2:22 says, “Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.” We want to help our children recognize that a person is a false teacher if that person denies the Father and the Son.

When Christ created all things in both heaven and earth, we see that He created both the things that are visible and the things that are invisible (the physical world and the spiritual world). Then we are given four different ranks of angels: thrones, dominions, principalities and powers. Here, we see that Christ was the Creator of all of the angels including both the good angels and the fallen angels. Both the physical world and the spiritual world were created by Christ and for Christ to bring praise and glory to Him. Psalm 150:6 concludes the book of Psalms by saying, “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!”

Christ is also before all things and by Him all things consist. Christ is before all things because He is the Creator of all things. Christ made it very clear that He is eternal when He said to the Jews in John 8:58, “Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” The word “consist” means *to hold together*. Here, we see that Christ is the one who holds everything together by the power of His Word. Hebrews 1:3 says, “Who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Because Christ is the One who holds everything together, He sits in the position of authority at the right hand of the Father.

In addition, Christ is the head of the body, the church. Ephesians 4:15-16 says, “But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Christ is also the head of the church because He gave His life for it. Ephesians 5:25 says, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.” In fact, each husband is told to follow the example of Christ and show our submission to our wife by giving our

self for her.

We also saw in verse fifteen that Christ is the firstborn from the dead and is over all creation. It has always been the plan of the Father that Christ would have the preeminence in all things. The word that is translated “preeminence” means *the one who is first in all things*. The Father chose to raise Christ as the first One who rose with a glorified body to emphasize the fact that He is the firstborn from the dead and has defeated death. As 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 says, “But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.” Christ was the first to defeat death. However, He will also raise us from the dead at His coming.

Colossians 1:19-20 goes on to say, “For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, 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.” Here, we see that the Father takes pleasure in the fact that all the fullness is in Christ. Colossians 2:9-10 says, “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” Christ possesses all of the things that are a part of the divine nature so that He is God just as the Father and the Holy Spirit are God. At the same time, Christ is also unique. John 1:14 says, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Here, we see that Christ is the God-Man because He also took on flesh and lived among us.

Christ became the God-Man so that He could reconcile all things to Himself. The word translated “reconcile” means *to bring back to a former state of harmony*. In the New Testament, it means that Christ changed our relationship to the Father. Instead of any longer being sinners, at the moment we repent and place our faith in Christ, we are made saints who are restored to a right relationship with the Father through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” We have now been made righteous because we are in Christ.

As a result, all who place their faith in Christ now have peace with God through the blood that Christ shed on the cross. As Romans 5:1 says, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” This is a great privilege that we want to help our physical and spiritual children fully understand. This is why they do not need to have fear any longer because the blood of Christ has blotted out their sin and they have peace with God. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children understand the importance of this peace with God.