

What's the Big Deal About Jesus

Colossians 1:15-20

Word for the day

- Syncretism:

is the combining of different beliefs, often while melding practices of various schools of thought. The term means "combining," . . .

Syncretism may involve the merger and analogizing of several originally discrete traditions, especially in the theology and mythology of religion, thus asserting an underlying unity and allowing for an inclusive approach to other faiths.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by 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.

Gnosticism for Dummies

- Gnostic - roughly equal to “*the intellectual ones.*”
- They were dissatisfied with what they considered the rude simplicity of Christianity and wished to turn it into a philosophy and to align it with the other philosophies which held the field at that time.

Gnosticism for Dummies

- Key tenants
 - Matter is *altogether* evil
 - Spirit is *altogether* good
 - Matter is eternal and it was out of this “evil matter” that the world and everything it was created.
 - True God (being spirit and good) could not touch matter and, therefore, could not himself be the agent of creation.

Gnosticism for Dummies

- . . . the Gnostics believed that God put forth a series of emanations, each a little further away from God until at last there was one so distant from God, that it could handle matter and create the world.

- William Barclay

Gnosticism for Dummies: Therefore . . .

- the creator was not God but someone hostile to him; and the world was not God's world but that of a power hostile to him
- Jesus was not unique

Gnosticism for Dummies: Therefore . . .

- If matter was altogether evil, it followed that the body was altogether evil therefore it followed further that he who was the revelation of God, could not have had a real body.
- The task of man is to find his way to God.

Christ's Supremacy in Creation

1. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God,

What's in an image



Christ's Supremacy in Creation

1. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God,
2. the firstborn over *all*¹ creation.
 - A matter of birth order – the first of the created
 - It is most frequently translated "firstborn" in the sense of heir, the owner, the possessor of creation. Steadman

Christ's Supremacy in Creation

1. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God,
2. the firstborn over *all*¹ creation.
3. ¹⁶ For by him *all*² things were created:
things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities
4. *all*³ things were created **by** him and **for** him.
5. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him *all*⁴ things hold together.

¹⁵The Son [who] 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 [eis] 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 [who] 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 [for; eis] reconcile to
himself*
all things,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace through his blood,
shed on the cross.

- Moo, D. J. (2008). The letters to the Colossians and to Philemon. The Pillar New Testament commentary (116). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.

Christ's Supremacy in Salvation

6. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church;
7. he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything⁵ he might have the supremacy.
8. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all⁶ his fullness dwell in him,
9. ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all⁷ things, whether things on earth or things in heaven,

Christ's Supremacy in Salvation

10. by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

So What

- How does our culture view Jesus?
- Who do you say Jesus is
- How are we tempted to compromise a biblical view of Jesus in order to be acceptable to the philosophies of our day
- What difference does your view of Jesus make in the way that you live your day to day life?

