

Why Should Christ Be First?

Colossians 1:19-20

BGT ¹⁹ ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ εὐδόκησεν πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα κατοικῆσαι ²⁰ καὶ δι' αὐτοῦ ἀποκαταλλάξαι τὰ πάντα εἰς αὐτόν, εἰρηνοποιήσας διὰ τοῦ αἵματος τοῦ σταυροῦ αὐτοῦ, [δι' αὐτοῦ] εἶτε τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς εἶτε τὰ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς.

NKJ ¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ 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.

My Identity as an INDIVIDUAL (Colossians 1:1)

My Identity as Part of a GROUP (Colossians 1:2)

Three Realms of a Believer's Walk (Colossians 1:3-8) – Ongoing Belief, Active Care, Forward Focus

Three Areas of Prayer for Spiritual Growth (Colossians 1:9-11) – Worthy Walking, Fruitful Working, Empowered Doing

Four Reasons to Thank God (1:12-14) – Our Qualification, Extrication, Translation, Redemption (He made us fit, free, followers, forgiven)

Serve the Savior as the Creator (1:15-17) – He is God of All, Firstborn of All, Creator of All

Who Is First in Your Life? (1:18) Christ is first in the Church, in Existence, in the Resurrection, in All Things

WHY SHOULD CHRIST BE FIRST?

1. REVIEW: What do we mean by “first?”

- “that in all things He may have the preeminence.” – preeminence = first place (lit. being first)
- Notice, it says “ _____,” not “ _____ everything else”
- The question is **not**, does Christ have **more** of my time, attention, energy, money, etc. (though quantity may be an indicator, but may not be – nuns, etc.), is Christ the central focus of my attention in **everything** that I do **all** the time, with **all** of my attention, with **all** of my energy, with **all** of my money. Christ is to be first **IN everything** – the reason for **every** action, the central controlling focus and factor of **all** my thoughts, words and deeds. That is when Christ is preeminent in your life – that is what He deserves and what is expected to be true in our lives.
- The question is **not**, am I serving God **more** than I am serving myself? It is not, am I spending giving **more** money on God than I am on myself? Am I reading my Bible **more** than I am playing video games or watching football? Etc. The question of preeminence is, **Is Jesus the continuous controlling focus of my life?** It is not a question of who has more – Jesus or me. Preeminence demands that Jesus has all of me all the time, whatever I am doing. Having Jesus in His rightful place in my life will affect all of my life, all of the time.
- Example #1: **Money** – I am to use **all** of my money in a way that puts Jesus first. Part of my money, the first part, is given to the assembly to support His leaders and His evangelizers. The entire remaining amount is not to do with what I please. In every purchase, in every reason I save, in every step in the process of handling my money, Jesus is to be in charge.
- Example #2: **Time** – I am to use **all** of my time in a way that puts Jesus first. I am to use part of my time assembling together. I am to be in the Word some of the time. I am to use some of my time ministering to the body. However, the rest of my time is not mine to use as I please. I must use my time as Jesus would have me. That may not include video games at all, if that is not a wise use of time (or if the content is anti-God). It may involve working in a field or fixing a computer. All that is done in my available time is done for the Lord. That is when He is first.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do **ALL** to the glory of God.

Pharisee? More (compare)? Preeminence takes any “compare” (more of something or more than someone) out!

WHY SHOULD CHRIST BE FIRST IN MY LIFE?

2. “For” (or “Because”) + Two Reasons (not the only two reasons)

- Reason #1: “in Him”
- Reason #2: “by Him”

3. Because of Who He Is – He Is _____ of the Universe (19)

¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, (ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ εὐδόκησεν πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα κατοικῆσαι)
Lit. – “because in Him it pleased all the fullness to dwell”

A. Because

B. In Him

C. It Pleased

- **1 Cor 1:21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
- **2 Pet 1:17** For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

D. All The Fullness

"the Father that" is in italics – it is supplied by the translators

"the fullness" can be the object or the subject – which is it?

No other subject is given

What other passages say

- Col 2:9
 - NKJ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;
 - NAU For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
 - NET For in him all the fullness of deity lives in bodily form,
 - NIV For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,
- **Eph 1:22-23** ²² And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (ἡτις ἐστὶν τὸ σῶμα αὐτοῦ, τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ τὰ πάντα ἐν πᾶσιν πληρουμένου.)

God's goal for us

- **Eph 3:14-19** – that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God
- **Eph 4:11-13** ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

E. To occupy (inhabit)

(used elsewhere in another form: present active part = "inhabitants")

- **2 Pet 3:13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
- **Col 2:9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;
- **Eph 3:17** that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

4. Because of What He Has _____ – He _____ Through the Cross (20)

²⁰ 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. (καὶ δι' αὐτοῦ ἀποκαταλλάξαι τὰ πάντα εἰς αὐτόν, εἰρηνοποιήσας διὰ τοῦ αἵματος τοῦ σταυροῦ αὐτοῦ, [δι' αὐτοῦ] εἶτε τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς εἶτε τὰ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς.)

A. By Him

"through Him" ("by Him v. 16c)

B. To Reconcile

Reconcile – "to effect a thorough (-kata-) change (-allasso) back (apo-), but the prefix apo- may emphasize completeness; i.e. no supplementary sacrifice by some supraterritorial being is needed." p. 50, Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament – Colossians & Philemon, Murray J. Harris (Eerdmans)

Only in Eph 2:16 (Jews & Gentiles), and in Col 1:20 & 22.

Rest only use word without "apo" (Rom 5:10 – 2x; 1 Cor 7:11; 2 Cor 5:18,19,20)

C. All Things (the all things – totality – universe) – all of creation (Rom 8:19-22)

D. Unto Himself (cp. "for Him" v. 16c) – full circle – made for Him; reclaimed by Him

E. Having Made Peace Through the Blood of His Cross

F. The Things Upon the Earth/In the Heavens

Do You Yield to Jesus as FIRST in Your Life – He Deserves It as God, He Has Re-earned It as Savior