

Jesus First. Jesus ALWAYS: Colossians 1:15-29
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When Jesus is first, everything else starts to make sense. Paul shows us in Colossians 1 that Christ is not an addition to life but the center of reality itself. Today we'll see that putting Jesus first reshapes how you understand all of the important categories of life.

When Jesus is first, reality comes into focus.

1. Reality about God comes into focus. — Colossians 1:15

- If you want to know what God is like, look at Christ — John 10:30.
- The Trinity is described by scholar Wayne Grudem this way: *“God eternally exists as 3 persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God.”*

2. Reality about meaning comes into focus. — Colossians 1:16

- All things were created for Him, which means your life has built-in purpose.
- Meaning is not something you invent. It is something you discover in Christ.
- Augustine of Hippo wrote this, *“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”*

3. Reality about stability comes into focus. — Colossians 1:17

- Jesus holds all things together. He created all and sustains all.
- Science explains how the universe is held together and Paul reveals the who holds it together.
- When life feels like it's chaotic and falling apart, ask the one who holds the universe together to hold you together, like the Psalmist did in Psalm 46:1-3.
- Tim Keller wrote, “If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said...”

4. Reality about church comes into focus. — Colossians 1:18

- The church belongs to Christ, not culture, trends, policies, you, or any pastor.
- “Firstborn from among the dead” means Jesus was the first to rise in a permanent, glorified, indestructible body, unlike others who were raised and years later died again. He is the beginning of the new creation. It does not mean that He was created. Firstborn in the Old Testament had to do with supremacy, inheritance and being chosen. David is called “firstborn” in Psalm 89:27 — even though he was the youngest son. Israel is called God’s “firstborn” in Exodus 4:22 — meaning chosen and privileged.

5. Reality about fullness comes into focus. — Colossians 1:19

- All the fullness of God dwells in Christ. He lacks nothing and needs no supplement. Jesus is enough!
- The Colossians believed in Jesus, but added mystical so called deeper secrets, religious practices, and angel worship.
- Today we believe in Jesus, but some of us quietly add other things to the relationship like success, riches, comfort, relationships, or influence. Why, because we think they will finally make life feel complete. What are you depending on alongside Jesus to give you the fullness only He provides?

6. Reality about our condition comes into focus. — Colossians 1:20-22

- We were not merely confused. We were hostile in mind, separated from God.
- Now we are reconciled, holy, without blemish, and free from accusation because of the cross. Reconciliation was not painless; it required real sacrifice!
- 1 Peter 1:18-19

7. Reality about perseverance comes into focus. — Colossians 1:23

- Continuing in the faith does not mean earning salvation. It means remaining grounded in the gospel. God saves you, but He only saves you in Jesus, so stay in Him!
- God keeps His people, and His people keep believing.

When Jesus is first, we want that for others too.

1. We serve so others experience God's love for them. — Colossians 1:24-25

- Serving is what Jesus would do (and He wants to serve through us).
- Serving is for the sake of the church Jesus loves.
- Serving is a commission from God to us (not just to Paul).
- [Click here](#) to fill out a ministry application and join a team. There are plenty of opportunities for you. A growing church like Cornerstone cannot keep growing without people like you serving.
- Abraham Kuyper wrote, *“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ... does not cry, ‘Mine!’”*

2. We proclaim so others experience God's life in them. — Colossians 1:26-29

- The mystery revealed is Christ in you.
- The One who created and holds galaxies together now lives within believers.
- That reality produces maturity and real spiritual strength in our lives. Why, because the One who owns every square inch is now shaping every square inch of us.