

“What Child Is This?”

Colossians 1:15-18

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / December 15, 2024

Colossians 1:15-18 “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And 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, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. This Child makes the invisible God visible.

Colossians 1:15 “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”

A. We’re all made in the image of God, but we’re not perfect images.

Romans 8:29 “For those whom He foreknew He also predestined **to be conformed to the image of His Son**, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image** from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

Colossians 3:10 “...and have put on the new self, **which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**”

B. We’re all made in the image of God, but Jesus is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4 “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, **who is the image of God.**”

Hebrews 1:3a “**He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature**, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power...”

II. This Child is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

Colossians 1:16-17 “**For by Him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, **and in Him all things hold together.**”

John 1:3 “All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.”

III. This Child is the Head of the Church.

Colossians 1:18a “And He is the head of the body, the church...”

Ephesians 1:22-23 “And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

IV. This Child came to have “first place” in everything.

Colossians 1:18b “He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in everything He might be preeminent.**”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. In your own words, recall any of the differences Pastor Peter made between being “made in the image of God,” and being “the image of God.”
2. What character qualities might you develop in order to better represent the God in Who’s image you were created?
3. Colossians 1:17 says “...in Him all things hold together.” How might this understanding impact your daily life and understanding of God’s sovereignty?
4. In what areas of your life do you need to yield more fully to Christ’s authority
5. What is one thing you can do this week to more intentionally acknowledge Christ’s supremacy in your thoughts, words or actions?