

# “Jesus Is God, So I Will... \_\_\_\_\_”

## Colossians 1:15-29

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Dec. 22, 2024

### I. If You Believe Jesus Is God You'll Surrender To Him As Your Final Authority On Everything

**Colossians 1:16-18** “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. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> 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.”

These three verses are a truckload of superlatives about Jesus Christ!

That word “preeminent” means a status of distinction that’s marked by importance or superiority. It includes a sense of royalty or dominion as a King.

That changes what you think about the little baby in the manger!

That final phrase in **v.18** captures it so well – “... that in everything He might be preeminent.”

*NIV* “... so that in everything He might have the supremacy.”

*NASB* “... so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”

If you’re a Christian, does Jesus have first place in everything in your life? Are there any views, convictions, ideas, behaviors, or relationships that you’re still holding onto and saying to Jesus, “You have no authority to go there in my life?”

If Jesus was just a guru, teacher, or good man then you could get away with that because He wouldn’t have the kind of authority **Col. 1** is talking about! But if He’s God and supreme over all things, then there’s no limit to His rights over you! You can’t section some things off in your life as non-negotiable. If Jesus is God then there’s no place for “No Trespassing Signs” anywhere in your life.

The supremacy of Christ should show up in every area of your life – especially those areas that define you the most!

“You can’t know the Absolute if you absolutize anything else in this world, whether it’s chocolate or sex or anything. You can’t know the Supreme One if anything else is supreme.”

~ Tim Keller

Anything or anyone else that begins to capture our hearts, and minds, and affections more than God is idolatry! It’s anything that begins to define and dictate to us what we can and cannot do!

**Col. 1** makes it absolutely clear that Jesus didn’t come into this world to just be some kind of spiritual guru, supplement, or add-on to your life. He is supreme and King and so it’s all or nothing. That’s what Christmas means. In everything, He must have the supremacy.

### II. If You Believe Jesus Is God You'll Suffer And Risk For What Matters Most

**Colossians 1:24** “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the church...”

**Colossians 1:29** “For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.”

There are a lot of intense verbs in **v. 29!**

- Toil – “Kapio” – to labor to the point of absolute exhaustion
- Struggle – “Agonizo” – to make every effort and strain every nerve to persevere in the face of opposition and temptation
- Work – “Engergeo” – to work effectively with power

This means if you say you believe that Jesus is God, you’ll start living in ways that some would call radical and even reckless.

You stop being so guarded, and you’re willing to risk, even suffer, knowing that your suffering could never compare to the suffering Jesus endured for you. In stark contrast to most people around you, security in this life no longer consumes you and so you look and live radical.

Our world has redefined Christmas to mean the exact opposite of what it originally meant. We’ve turned Christmas into one of the coziest times of year.

But that first Christmas had none of the cozy smells, bells, and lights we have today. There was nothing cozy about the stable and nothing cozy about the mission for which Jesus had been sent. It was raw and radical.

When you truly understand who Jesus is - supreme - and the real meaning of Christmas - radical - you’ll start living for what matters most with your money, time, and energy!

### **III. If You Believe Jesus Is God You’ll Be Done With Empty Religion**

That’s what Paul’s talking about in **vv. 20-22**.

**Colossians 1:20-22** “...and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. <sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him...”

**Colossians 1:20** “... making peace by the blood of His cross.”

That baby in the manger came into this world to die for you and to give His blood in payment for your sin debt!

**V. 21** describes the spiritual condition of every one of us from birth.

**Colossians 1:21** “And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds...”

**V. 22** tells us what happens for anyone who puts their faith and trust in Him as their Savior.

**Colossians 1:22** “...He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him...”