

CHRIST, THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Colossians 1:18-20

(Compare with Eph. 1:20-23 and Phil. 2:6-11)

Col. 1:15-20

I. He is the Image of the invisible God.

Jn. 1:14; I Tim. 3:16

A. The eternally pre-existing Word

B. The incarnate Son

C. The Reigning Mediator

II. He is the Firstborn of all creation

A. Priority before creation

B. Supremacy over creation

III. In Him all things were created -

(See gnostic teaching on creation)

A. He created matter; matter not evil

~~B. Visible & invisible - matter and energy~~~~C. In Him; not in a line of causes outside of him.~~

B. Visible & invisible - matter and energy

C. In Him; not in a line of causes outside of him.

IV. He is before all things

A. In time - "Does God live behind that door?"

B. In rank

V. In Him all things hold together (derive their perpetuity)

A. He is the cause & reason for their continuing existence

B. He makes the universe a cosmos instead of a chaos

C. Not only Creator but Sustainer.

VI. He is the ^{κεφαλῇ}Head of the Church (see v.24)

A. His headship of the church necessarily follows his headship of the universe.

B. He gives the church - the organism as a whole - the body

1. Existence - all powers come from Him

2. Unity - Xt, the unifying principle.

3. Government

C. As head, he thinks for the whole body, plans and guides,

determines doctrines, legislates & administers.

we are not guided by (1) Results or by (2) The times

In Semitic languages "the word for 'head' and 'beginning' have the same root."
ἀρχή

VII. He is the beginning (origin)
the Firstborn from (out of) the dead-Resurrection
" - (precedence in time)
that in everything he might be preeminent
(the one who takes first place)

A. In the church

B. In the life of the believer — *the experience of the Risen Xt.*

VIII. In Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.
πλήρωμα

See also 2:9 — *the fullness of the Godhead.*

A. All that which is filled up in God

B. All that makes up the complete character and perfection of God.

C. All that makes up God *is* in Christ.

IX. Through Him to reconcile to himself all things

See also 2 Cor. 5:19, 20

A. From enmity to love

B. From hostility to obedience

X. Making peace by the blood of his cross.

A. The nature of peace with God

B. The method of peace — its price

1. God's part: the blood of the cross

2. Our part: repentance from sin

commitment in faith to Christ

Conclusion: Having seen the Person of Christ, the
Glory of Christ, the Pre-eminent Lordship of Christ,
And the Work of Christ, how can we do less than
give Him our whole heart?

"Surely the blood of Christ
ought to count for something!"

"When to the Cross I turn my eyes,
And rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God, my sacrifice,
I must remember thee"

Norwood B.C. Aug 8, '82

* Christ is the express image of His person.

He is the exact illustration of His Love,
the definite delineation of His Righteousness,
the true portrayal of His Holiness,
the perfect picture of His Power,
the precise projection of His goodness,
the faithful fac-simile of His Saving grace.

** What is God like? - God is like Jesus Christ
He is like Jesus Teaching the Un-shepherded multitude;
" " " Forgiving the woman of sin when
" " " her accusers would stone her;

" " Raising Lazarus from the dead;
" " Healing all the sick of their diseases;
" " Walking on the stormy waters and
" " commanding the tempestuous waves to be still;
" " Casting demons out of the Gadarene maniac
" " and giving him peace of mind;
" " Saving the penitent thief on the cross;
" " Taking the scorn, ridicule, and suffering
" " that were heaped on Him at Calvary.

like Jesus-halleluyah! - rising victorious from the
dead and leaving behind Him an empty tomb!

That is what God is like!!

That's my Jesus, my Lord, and my God!
Do you know Him? - Do you love Him? - with all
your heart? - Are you living for Him? -
Will you serve Him? - with all your soul?

Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:10 - what does this mean?
This means that the image of God in which man was
created, and which was lost through man's fall in the Garden
of Eden, is renewed in man through the redemptive work of X.
This is a wonderful thing! The beautiful portrait
is not forever marred. The touch of the master's hand
restores it. The Heavenly Artist can take his brush
of love, dip it into His oil-colors of Mercy, toned softly
with the Blood of His Son, and by His own gracious technique,
restore the God-like image on the marred canvas of the
penitent sinner's life, and bring out His perfect and
righteous design in striking relief.

Oh, to be like Thee, oh to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer, pure as thou art;
Come in thy sweetness, come in thy fullness;
stamp thine own image deep on my heart.

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

mt. 6:9, "say, our father who art in heaven."
 ps. 103:13, "like as a father pitieth his children."

Introduction: what precious associations cluster around the word Father!

God first planned that the human Fatherhood should be the initiative } the heavenly Fatherhood. It is the human fatherhood which is an accommodation to the Divine, not the Divine which is an accommodation to the human.

How Does God Perform the Function of a Father?

I. By Communication of His Nature to us.
 II Peter 1:4 - "Partakers of the Divine nature."
 Gal. 4:6 - "Abba, Father."
 "Be ye holy, for I am Holy."
 "Remember, thou art a King's son."
 Justin Martyr - the blameless lives of the Christians.

II. In Allowing us full permission to come to Him with all our needs.
 1. Minister visiting children in Orphan's Home.
 2. come to Him with our sins
 3. come for our material, earthly needs.

~~In Supplying All our wants. (Isa. 44:16)~~

4. Behold the birds of the air; they are not God's children; yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them; will He not much more feed you, who are His sons?
 5. Phil. 4:19, "God will supply every need of yours"
 6. Psalm 23:1 - "I shall not want"

- III. In pitying us in our troubles.
1. Ps. 103:13 - "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him."
 2. Comforts us in our sorrows of bereavement.

- IV. In disciplining us with his authority.
1. Fatherhood is the basis of the right to chasten.
 2. Heb. 12:6, 7, 11, "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"

- V. In caring for our safety.
- The Heavenly Father does not leave the affairs of his children to the blind operation of nature's laws + ~~the~~ ~~inevitable~~ ~~sequence~~ of fate, but he exercises over them a personal vigilance, protection and guidance.
- "The Lord of glory thundereth."

- VI. In laying up an inheritance for us.
- 1 Peter 1:3, 4, "The God + Father both together us to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled."

It is related of Cicero when he was banished from Italy, and of Demosthenes when he was banished from Athens, that they wept every time they looked towards their own country, so great was their love for their fatherland. The love of pagans for their fatherland should not be greater than the love of Christians for their Father.