



# CONNECT GROUP NOTES

## Sunday 21.05.2023

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“Supremacy & Beauty”

### **Preacher**

Ps. Cameron Hall

### **Scripture**

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 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 and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.”

Colossians 1:15-23



## **Thought**

Six times, Paul reminds us that it is Christ who holds together all things. Everything is created from Him, through Him, to Him. Everything is moved toward Him, compelled to follow Him. Let's not drift towards the peripheral, towards the temptations and distractions of other things - but let us continue to be led toward Christ.

You and I are purpose-built in the glory and wonder of Christ - to be moved towards Christ, to worship Him. Everything is for His glory and to His glory. It's a reminder of the supremacy of Christ - that He is not lesser than anything else, but rather He is the ultimate.

Jesus should always be our reference point - our true north. He is the image of the invisible God, the ultimate measure of who God is. We are called, like King David was, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord. Jesus calls Himself the good shepherd, the beautiful shepherd. He's the one who looks after us, who leads us by still waters, who leads us through green pastures, who restores our soul. It is He who walks with us through the dark shadows. When we see Jesus, we see the beautiful nature of God personified.

God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him (Jesus). The fullness of God, the totality of God, the very character and expression of God completely expressed through the incarnate Christ.

Jesus was not some mere shadow of God, nor some weak reflection of the glory of God, and not even one aspect of God - but rather the fullness of God. There's no good cop / bad cop being played out here, there's no meek and mild Jesus vs an angry, distant, vengeful God - they are one and the same. Paul is reminding us of this.

The same Jesus who showed grace to the woman caught in adultery is the exact representation of God. Jesus doesn't accuse us. He doesn't berate us. He doesn't cut us off for not meeting the mark. He doesn't expose and belittle us. He offers us grace, free from accusation, and invites us to follow His ways.



To truly understand that Christ is ultimate and supreme - yet accessible and gracious, is one of the most life-transforming revelations we can have - and a revelation that we can spend most of our lives trying to fully understand.

Our questions, our challenges, our fears of the future, our self-exclusion, our worries - are all calmed when we truly know that the all-supreme God, who holds our future in His all-capable hands, truly loves us, has compassion for us, and walks with us. May we truly come to understand the impact of this truth.

### **Discussion Points**

1. How does Christ being the image [exact representation] of God impact your view of God? Have you ever viewed God and Jesus as two very distinct personalities?
2. What does Christ's supremacy mean for our fears? If Christ truly made all things, and holds all things, what does that mean for my future?
3. As we look to the broken and sinful world around us, how did Christ approach the world, and what does that mean for how we should approach those around us?

### **Personal application + Prayer**

Lord Jesus,

Show me Your glory. May I understand even just a fraction of the greatness of who You are and what that means for me and the world around me. Help me to place my life in Your loving hands, to truly understand Your character. Teach me afresh who You are. I lay down my preconceptions and open myself to the fresh work of the Holy Spirit, transforming my heart and mind and revealing the deep beauty of who You are. May I ever know Your wonder, may I ever know the depths of Your grace, and may I dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Amen