

## **Preeminence of Christ (Link to Source)**

**Sunday, July 6, 2025**

The concept of the preeminence of Christ is a central theme in Christian theology, emphasizing the supremacy and ultimate authority of Jesus Christ over all creation. This doctrine is rooted in various passages of Scripture, which highlight Christ's divine nature, His role in creation, and His authority over the church and the cosmos.

### **Biblical Foundation**

The preeminence of Christ is most explicitly articulated in the New Testament, particularly in the writings of the Apostle Paul. In [Colossians 1:15-20](#), Paul provides a profound exposition of Christ's supremacy:

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created, things 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. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in all things He may have preeminence. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross."

This passage underscores several key aspects of Christ's preeminence:

- 1. Image of the Invisible God:** Christ is the perfect representation of God, making the invisible God known to humanity.
- 2. Firstborn Over All Creation:** The term "firstborn" signifies rank and authority, not temporal origin, indicating Christ's supreme position over all creation.
- 3. Agent of Creation:** All things were created through and for Christ, affirming His active role in creation and His ultimate purpose for it.
- 4. Sustainer of All Things:** Christ holds all creation together, maintaining the order and coherence of the universe.
- 5. Head of the Church:** As the head of the body, the church, Christ exercises authority and leadership over His people.
- 6. Firstborn from the Dead:** His resurrection marks the beginning of a new creation, affirming His victory over death and His preeminence in the new order.

**7. Fullness of God:** The fullness of deity dwells in Christ, affirming His divine nature and sufficiency.

**8. Reconciler of All Things:** Through His sacrificial death, Christ reconciles all things to God, establishing peace and restoring creation.

**Theological Implications**

The preeminence of Christ has profound theological implications for understanding His nature and work. It affirms His divinity, as He shares in the fullness of God and exercises authority over all creation. This doctrine also emphasizes the centrality of Christ in salvation history, as He is the means through which God accomplishes reconciliation and redemption.

Furthermore, the preeminence of Christ underscores the importance of His role in the life of the believer and the church. As the head of the church, Christ is the source of spiritual life and growth, guiding and sustaining His people. Believers are called to recognize and submit to His authority, living in a manner that reflects His lordship.

**Christ's Preeminence in Hebrews**

The Epistle to the Hebrews also highlights the superiority of Christ, particularly in relation to the Old Covenant. [Hebrews 1:3-4](#) states:

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. So He became as far superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is excellent beyond theirs."

This passage emphasizes Christ's divine nature, His role in sustaining the universe, and His exalted position at the right hand of God, further affirming His preeminence.

**Conclusion**

The preeminence of Christ is a foundational doctrine that shapes the Christian understanding of Jesus' identity and mission. It calls believers to worship, obedience, and a life centered on Christ, recognizing Him as the ultimate authority and source of all life and salvation.

**Summary from last week's Study:**

**Colossians 1:12-14**  
12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified

Three things have occurred:

1. God has made you **worthy** to be part of His people — those who live in His light. You don't earn this; **He qualifies you**, and this is something to be **joyful and thankful** about.

you[f] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

2. God has **rescued you from the power of sin and spiritual darkness**, and has **brought you into a new life under Jesus**, His beloved Son.
3. Through Jesus, you are **redeemed** (set free from sin) and your **sins are forgiven**.

In summary.....

God made you part of His family.

He saved you from darkness and brought you into the light of Jesus.

Through Jesus, you are forgiven and free.

To be clear:

- Christ took back the authority that Satan stole with the fall of Adam.
- Adam’s job was to “take dominion, be fruitful and multiply” – Gen. 1:28. **God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the earth and everything in it:**
- In the Garden of Eden, Adam gave that authority to the enemy.
- The willful crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ...reclaims the Authority from Satan.....**Colossians 2:15 - “And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”**
- Jesus makes a public spectacle of Satan and He reclaims dominion over Heaven and Earth.
  - **1. Jesus Disarmed Satan and His Forces**
    - On the cross, Jesus **stripped the enemy of his power** to accuse, condemn, and control. (*Because of Christ, we now stand before God as "not guilty"subs*)
    - Satan’s main weapon is **sin and death**, but Jesus paid the price for sin and defeated death through His resurrection.
    - He "**disarmed**" those powers by taking away their legal authority over us.
    - **Hebrews 2:14 (NIV)**  
*“By his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.”*

<p><b>Christ Over All Things</b>  <b>Colossians 1:15-23 (Bible Gateway NIV)</b>  <b>Additional Study Resources:</b> <a href="#">The Greatness of Christ</a> (Link to Blue Letter Bible and Commentary by David Guzik)</p>	
<p><sup>15</sup>The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus perfectly reveals who God is. Though God is invisible, we see His nature, character, and power fully in Christ (John 14:9).</li> <li>• <b>John 14:9 (KJV)</b> <i>"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"</i></li> <li>• “Firstborn” means <b>highest in rank</b>, not created first. It shows Jesus has <b>supreme authority</b> over all creation — He is Lord of all.</li> <li>• Psalms 89:27 (And I will <b>appoint</b> him to be my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth.)</li> <li>• In summary - Jesus makes the invisible God visible and reigns as the supreme ruler over everything created.</li> </ul>
<p><sup>16</sup>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“In him all things were created”</b> Jesus is not just a part of creation — He is the <b>source</b> of all creation.</li> <li>• <b>“Things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible”</b> Jesus created everything — the physical world and the spiritual realm.</li> <li>• <b>“Thrones, powers, rulers, authorities”</b> All forms of power and authority, both human and spiritual, exist <b>under His rule</b>.</li> <li>• <b>“Created through him and for him”</b> Jesus is both the <b>agent</b> of creation and its <b>purpose</b> — everything exists <b>because of Him and for His glory</b>.</li> <li>• <b>When we think of AGENT, He is the one through whom God created everything. How do we know this?</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>John 1:1–3 (KJV)</b></li> <li>• <b>1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.</b></li> <li>• <b>2 The same was in the beginning with God.</b></li> <li>• <b>3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.</b></li> <li>• <b>Brings a whole new meaning to the Word being made flesh!</b></li> </ul>
<p><sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“He is before all things”</b> Jesus existed <b>before anything was created</b> — He is <b>eternal</b>.</li> <li>• <b>“In him all things hold together”</b> Jesus <b>sustains</b> everything. He keeps the world and the universe from falling apart.</li> </ul>
<p><sup>18</sup>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Head of the body, the church”</b> Jesus is the <b>leader and source of life</b> for the Church, which is called His <b>body</b>.</li> <li>• <b>“The beginning and the firstborn from among the dead”</b> Jesus was the <b>first to rise from the dead</b> never to die again, starting a <b>new creation</b>.</li> <li>• <b>“So that in everything he might have the supremacy”</b> Jesus is <b>first and greatest in all things</b> — He is above everything and everyone.</li> </ul>
<p><sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“God was pleased”</b> It was God's <b>own will and delight</b> to do this.</li> <li>• <b>“All his fullness”</b> This means <b>everything that makes God who He is</b> — His power, wisdom, glory, love, and nature.</li> <li>• <b>“Dwell in him”</b> All of God's divine nature <b>lives fully in His Son, Jesus Christ</b> — not temporarily, but permanently.</li> <li>• <b>Ephesians 3:19 - <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.</b></li> </ul>
<p><sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Through him”</b> Through <b>Jesus Christ</b>.</li> </ul>

<p>making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“To reconcile to himself all things”</b> God used Jesus to <b>restore a broken relationship</b> between Himself and all creation.</li> <li>• <b>“Things on earth or in heaven”</b> This reconciliation affects <b>everything</b> — not just people, but the whole universe.</li> <li>• <b>“By making peace through his blood”</b> Jesus' <b>death on the cross</b> made <b>peace possible</b> — removing sin and restoring harmony with God.</li> </ul>
<p><sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of<sup>[e]</sup> your evil behavior.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Alienated from God”</b> You were <b>separated</b> from God — cut off from His presence and relationship.</li> <li>• <b>“Enemies in your minds”</b> You were not neutral — your thinking was <b>opposed to God</b>, filled with selfishness and sin.</li> <li>• <b>“Because of your evil behavior”</b> This refers to the carnal nature — the "old man" and the sinful patterns that separated us from God. (representing the old man and sinful actions) These actions <b>distanced you</b> from God.</li> </ul>
<p><sup>22</sup> 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—</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“But now he has reconciled you”</b> Even though you were once separated from God (v. 21), now you've been <b>brought back into relationship with Him</b>.</li> <li>• <b>“By Christ's physical body through death”</b> Jesus' <b>real, physical death on the cross</b> is what made this reconciliation possible — His sacrifice paid the price for our sin.</li> <li>• <b>“To present you holy... without blemish... free from accusation”</b> Because of Jesus, you are now seen by God as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Holy</b> – Set apart for God</li> <li>• <b>Without blemish</b> – Spiritually clean and pure</li> <li>• <b>Free from accusation</b> – No longer guilty or condemned</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><sup>23</sup> 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“If you continue in your faith”</b> God's promises are for those who <b>stay rooted in faith</b> — it's not just about starting strong, but <b>finishing faithfully</b>.</li> </ul>

that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

- **“Established and firm... not moved from the hope”**  
You must stay **anchored in the truth** of the gospel, not swayed by lies, fear, or worldly thinking.
- **“This is the gospel... proclaimed to every creature”**  
This message of salvation is **for everyone**, and has already begun to spread throughout the world.
- **“Of which I, Paul, have become a servant”**  
Paul gave his life to **serve and share** this gospel — and he reminds us to do the same.