SERMON NOTES
DEEPLY ROOTED TOGETHER

The Wonder of Jesus Christ

"The Son 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 powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been 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 everything he might have the supremacy. 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 his blood, shed on the cross." (Colossians 1:15-20)

Structure

He is the image of the invisible God/firstborn of all creation (v. 15)
For in him all things were created (v. 16)

He is before all things (v. 17)
He is the head of the body/the church (v. 18a)

He is the beginning/firstborn from among the dead (v. 18)
For God was pleased … (v. 19)

Christ: Supreme in Creation and Supreme in Redemption

"Just as plants need sun, water, and good soil to thrive, people need love, work, and a connection to something larger." –Jonathan Haidt, *The Happiness Hypothesis*

As I recognize Christ's supremacy, I will:

- Confront the lies
- Commit to his plan

DEEPLY ROOTED TOGETHER

WEEK FOUR: COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

Description for Series

Your view of Jesus Christ will impact every area of your life. These past months have revealed, more than ever, that we need to remain strong in our faith. Today, as in the Colossian church, there are doctrines and theological perspectives that can lead to wrong thinking about who Jesus is. Paul addresses the heresies by reminding the believers in Colossae of the centrality of Christ. Believers have died with Christ; therefore, we need to die to our sins. We have also been raised with Christ; therefore, we must live well in him and put on qualities that are motivated by Christian love. And because he is Lord over all, the life of the Christian is a life of submission to Jesus. This study will cause us to think about if we are following Jesus as we should. Our faith in Jesus Christ should transform the relationships we have in every area of our lives—in our homes, our churches, and our world.

The devotional guide will continue the same rhythm that we used for the last devotional guides where we practiced the 3 x 20 pattern. Spend at least 20 minutes, 3 times a week, in God's word. Each of the three days you will be asked to implement the **Read**. **Reflect**. **Respond**. pattern to help get more deeply into God's word.

What does it take to get your attention? In dramatic fashion, Paul seeks to get our attention with his description of Jesus Christ in Colossians one. He shows the supremacy of Christ in creation and redemption. Simply put—the result of Christ's work is reconciliation. Christ is the one who brings restoration, peace, and wholeness.

Scripture Guide

During this sermon series we are going to pray through specific passages in Colossians as we learn about our own identity and being "deeply rooted together." There is a Scripture Guide available on Sunday at the Hub or on **hfcinfo.com**.

The prayer focus for this week is Colossians 1:22-23, *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— 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,*

Below is an example of how to pray the passage.

"Thank you, Father, that you have reconciled me to yourself because of Jesus' physical death on the cross. This was your perfect plan. You have reconciled me to yourself by the death of your one and only perfect son. Because of Christ, you see me without stain and free from all accusations that were made against you. Help me to remain strong in the faith and to remain strong in proclaiming the truth of the gospel. Amen."

DAY ONE

READ Colossians 1:15-23

- How does a big view of Jesus help you trust and lean on him?
- How does Jesus' authority, rank, and power over all things help you face the circumstances caused by the pandemic and your specific situation today?

REFLECT on what in creation cause wonder in you. Think about how you can delight in Jesus.

RESPOND by writing one thing that prompts you to worship Jesus because of his transcendence over all, and one thing that prompts you to worship because of his humility in drawing near.

DAY TWO

FOCUS the passage again focusing on verses 18-20.

- How do creation and redemption point to the supremacy of Jesus? How can you reflect Christ's new creation kingdom in your life?
- How will the consummation of God's plan restore and make right all things in our world and in your life?

REFLECT on how you can reveal the character and actions of God as displayed in verse 20. (peacemaker, restorer, etc.)

RESPOND by identifying the people or situations you've given up on and ask God to continue to work in and through them.

DAY THREE

READ the passage again focusing on verse 21-23.

- Do you see yourself as God sees you in Christ or as you look at yourself on your own? (still sinful) How do you preach the gospel to yourself so your identity is formed around truth?

- Why does resting in Jesus' work for you give you hope that you are accepted by God now and will be accepted in the final judgment?

REFLECT on what it means that Christ sacrificed his life for you and cleansed you from your sin.

RESPOND by making a list of any lies you're believing about yourself. Look at the verses in Colossians 1 and write down the statements that speak to the truth of your identity.

SMALL GROUP & FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What big ideas do you take away from this passage?

2. What difference does it make if there is a design and direction to creation? (verses 15-17)

3. In verse 18, Paul declares that Christ is the head of the church, which is his body. Why is it essential that the head and the body stay connected? Describe the effects of disconnection between the body and the head.

4. Verses 20-21 mention that Christ has reconciled us to himself. What does it mean to you to be reconciled to God? How should being reconciled to God change the way you think about yourself? How should it change the way you think about others?

5. Our identity in Christ means that we see ourselves differently than before we knew Christ. Take time as a family or group to look at the statements in Colossians that reveal the truth about your identity. For example, verses 4 and 5 show that God's desire is for us to grow in faith, love, and hope.