

e-concepts

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8 Facts about the Person of Christ

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He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions 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. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything (Colossians 1:15-18).

- **Christ is the Image of the invisible God.** For reasons known only to Himself, God has chosen to remain invisible. Christ is the exact representation, literally the icon of the invisible God, that is, God the Father (Hebrews 1:3). They share the same glory (2 Corinthians 4:4). Christ is the visible person of the Trinity. *No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him (John 1:18).* There is no reason to believe we will see any other person of the Godhead except the Son (Exodus 33:20). *He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?* (John 14:9).
- **Christ is the Firstborn.** Obviously this does not mean that Christ was born. Paul clarifies that by immediately saying, *by Him all things were created.* Paul is using the word *firstborn* to state that Christ has all the rights normally given to the firstborn (Deuteronomy 21:17). God was clear that the firstborn was sanctified, “set apart” and belonged to Him (Exodus 13:2). And that certainly applied to Christ. The Lexicon’s also say this word was used of an only child.
- **Christ is the Creator and all creation is done for Him.** In Colossians 1, we have the most detailed New Testament account of Christ’s creative work, in addition, John said, *all things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being (John 1:3; see also 1 Corinthians 8:6 and Hebrews 1:2).* As creator, He is responsible for His creation. Therefore, He is also the sustainer of life, holding all things together.
- **Christ is before all things.** In other words, He is before all things in time. There is no time when He was not. He is the beginning. He is also the end. John closes Revelation by quoting Jesus, *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (22:13).*
- **Christ holds all things together.** For example, life on earth is held in a delicate balance. Slightly closer to the sun, and we would burn up. Slightly further away, we would freeze. The chemical balances of life are very narrow. The tilt of the earth on its axis, the wind currents caused by the rotation of the earth, and the amount of daylight and darkness all are essential for life on earth.
- **Christ is head of the body, the church.** The church equals the body of Christ. *You are Christ’s body.* It is my understanding that the “church” is a plural word for believers. In the New Testament, no modifying word such as “universal” or “local,” or a denominational word such as Baptist, Lutheran, Orthodox or Catholic, was ever placed in front of the word “church.”
- **Christ is the firstborn from the dead.** He was the first to rise with a resurrected, immortal body. Here Paul used the same word for firstborn he used in verse 15. There it meant He inherited everything. Here it is used to indicate that He was “the first one to rise from the dead with a resurrection body” (Ryrie Study Bible). *But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep (1 Corinthians 15:20).*
- **Christ Himself will come to have first place in everything.** The Bible is all about the good pleasure of God (the next verse 1:19), and God says Christ will have first place in everything. So anything other than Christ having first place is contrary to the plan of God.

Application: Teach the person and work of Jesus Christ theologically, as the foundation for morality. Theology is always the foundation of morality. There is no difference between your faith and your works (James 2).

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