

13. Christ above all

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The Bible clearly separates the entire human race into two categories – only two. There is no neutral area for those who cannot make up their minds yet. By not choosing God, they automatically are choosing the other side for themselves.

These two categories are:

Tier #1) For God vs. Against God

Tier #2) Believers of Jesus Christ, God the Son vs. Unbelievers

Tier #3) Born-again Christian vs. Not born-again

A great deal of people in America as well as around the world would side themselves with “For God” in Tier #1. However, their concepts of God can have a gigantic gamma of difference. It can run from the God of the Bible to a god of who-knows-what.

When we move into the second tier – “Believers of Jesus Christ, God the Son vs. Unbelievers”, the vast majority of people who thought that they were “For God” would end up in the Unbeliever side, because they realize that they are not the believers of Jesus Christ according to the Bible.

The third tiers will define a lot more. They have to ask themselves if they are born-again Christians or not and choose the side.

If we stick with literal interpretation of the Bible which is the most accurate interpretation, we do not have a lot of room to wiggle around for neutral area – hoping that God would grant an access to heaven, but we still keep our own way. There is only one way to heaven that is the way through Jesus Christ.

The bottom line comes down to deciding who Jesus is in our hearts. If He is the Son of God to you as the Bible mentions; God Himself; the Creator of the Universe; and the Sustainer of all created things, then you would honor Him above all things including yourself. But if you don't, you will face the consequence of your own choice through the wrath of God.

A. HE IS ABOVE ALL

John 3:31 He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

Some Bible scholars do not agree as to who is speaking in these six verses – John the apostle or John the Baptist. There were no quotation marks in early manuscripts, but since all Scripture is inspired, it really makes little difference who said the words. But many well-known scholars consider this portion as the continuing comment by John the Baptist.

One thing we have to notice in this verse is “He who comes from above”. He, that is Jesus, was not simply called from heaven, nor was he empowered by heaven. He came from heaven. It was this claim that the Jews disputed, because they understood that according to what Jesus said, He claimed to be God. John the Baptist was not ‘from above’, nor did he ever claim to be. No earthly messenger of God came from ‘above’. Only Jesus Christ can make that claim and prove it to be true.

Since Jesus came from heaven, He represents the Father God. Anyone who rejects Jesus, rejects the Father in heaven.

B. HE HAS THE FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE OF HEAVEN

John 3:32-33 And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. 33 He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true.

In the court of law, witness must have first hand experience to testify – no hearsay, or personal opinion. Jesus gives us true, pure truth from the very throne of God. Every time Jesus speaks to us through the Bible, what He says agrees with what the Father said in the OT.

Have you ever talked to somebody who says, “I believe in God, but I’m not sure about Jesus.” Many say that they believe in God but they won’t accept Jesus Christ for who He is.

Listen, you can’t separate those two. If you believe in Jesus Christ, then you believe the truth about God.

John 10:30 I and My Father are one.

And if you believe the truth about God, you must believe in Jesus Christ. Why? Because Jesus is God Himself, not a physical manifestation of Michael, the archangel like Jehovah’s Witness believes; nor the very first of many sons, including Lucifer, the product of a physical sexual encounter between God the Father who visited earth and had sexual relations with Mary according to Mormonism.

C. GIVEN ALL THINGS INTO HIS HAND

John 3:34-35 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. 35 The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

God the Father sent Jesus with His Word, with the Holy Spirit, and with the complete supremacy over everyone and everything, past, present, and future. In other words, to reject Jesus’ Word is to rebel against the highest authority in the universe.

We cannot study the supremacy of Jesus Christ without cross referencing with Colossians 1.

D. THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

Colossians 1:15a He is the image of the invisible God,
The Greek word for ‘image’ is ‘eikon’ where we get an English word ‘icon’. Apostle Paul used the word ‘image’ to make this fact clear. It means “an exact representation.”

The writer of the Book of Hebrews affirms that Jesus Christ is “*the express image of His Person*” from Hebrews 1:3. Jesus was able to say, “*He that has seen Me, has seen the Father*” in John 14:9. It is only in Jesus Christ that the invisible God is revealed perfectly. Since no mere creature can perfectly reveal God, Jesus Christ must be God.

E. THE FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION

Colossians 1:15b the firstborn over all creation.

This is where Jehovah’s Witness people get so happy to explain to the people who do not know the truth of Jesus with their fabricated doctrines. Obviously they didn’t

understand the definition of the Greek word 'prototokos'. It does not refer to time, but to place or status. Firstborn of all Creation means "Headship of all Creation." His headship of all creation does not mean that He was born first.

King Solomon was certainly not born first of all of David's sons, yet he was named the firstborn. Jesus Christ is not a created being, but He is the Creator, eternal God.

F. BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED

Colossians 1:16a For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.

Jehovah's Witness' bible, the New World Translation states, "by him all other things were created." They inserted the word "other" in v15-17 to claim that Jesus is not the Jehovah God, but a son of God. Actually, Jehovah's Witness is nothing more than a reincarnation of gnosticism from the first century.

The word 'for' that introduces this verse could be translated "because." Jesus Christ is the Firstborn of all because He created all things. It is no wonder that the winds and waves obeyed Him, and diseases and death fled from Him, because He is the Master over all. Jesus created all things including angels – some became fallen by their own choice.

On a side note, for these fallen angels – demons, have you ever wondered why they don't get to have salvation like humans since they chose to walk away from God's goodness? What is the difference between human and angel? Though we humans have spirit just like angels, but we have physical bodies that requires redemption through Jesus Christ, but angels don't. That is why fallen angels cannot have salvation as we do.

All things are under Jesus' command. Nothing escapes from our Lord Jesus' acknowledgement. Without His permission, nothing will happen including what the devil wants to do.

G. ALL THINGS WERE CREATED FOR HIM

Colossians 1:16b All things were created through Him and for Him.

Apostle Paul's use of three different prepositions – "by, through, for" – is to refute the philosophy of the false teachers.

For centuries, the Greek philosophers had taught that everything needed a primary cause, an instrumental cause, and a final cause. The primary cause is the plan, the instrumental cause the power, and the final cause the purpose. When it comes to Creation, Jesus Christ is the primary cause, because He planned it. He is the instrumental cause, because He created it. He is the final cause, because He did it for His own pleasure.

H. IN HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST – BE HELD TOGETHER (NIV)

Colossians 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

The scientists around the world don't know how atoms are held together, they call this holding agent as "Atomic Glue or Chemical Bonds" of which ingredients they have no idea.

However, mankind has figured out how to split these atoms. Mankind is very good at destroying things, are we not? When they were able to split these atoms, they

learned that there are tremendous amount of energy released instantly that would blow up everything around for many miles and destroy everything in its path. That device is known as atom bomb. We now have a more powerful thing than that – a thermonuclear bomb. I was told that we have enough nuclear arsenals around the world to destroy the earth 40 times over.

But we know who is holding every atom in its place. Again, this is another affirmation that Jesus Christ is God. Only God exists before all of creation, and only God can make creation hold together. To make Jesus Christ less than God is a human's flimsy attempt to dethrone Him.

I. HE IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

No denomination or local church can claim that they are the only "body of Christ." Because the body of Christ is composed of all true believers. Each Christian is a member of this spiritual body, and Jesus Christ is the Head.

In Greek, the word 'head' is 'kephale'. It means "source" and "origin" as well as "leader, ruler." Jesus Christ is the Source of the church, His body and He is the Leader.

Paul called Him "the Beginning" which tells us that Jesus Christ has priority in time as far as His church is concerned. The word 'beginning' also can be translated "originator."

J. THE WRATH OF GOD

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

The opposite of eternal life is eternal death through the wrath of God. A person does not have to die and go to hell to be under the wrath of God. The verdict has already been given, but the sentence has not yet been executed. Why? Because God is patient and long-suffering, and continues to call sinners to repentance.

John 3:18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already,

The wrath of God abides in this world, because there is no statute of limitations on sin. It abides into the next world, because those who reject Jesus cannot offer a perfect sacrifice that is acceptable to God. The wrath of God abides until it is satisfied by receiving the perfect payment Jesus made on the cross.

K. APPLICATION

Jesus must be the first priority and have preeminence in our lives.

No human's desire – riches, fame, even our own families – should replace Jesus in our hearts.