

# The All of Jesus

## Colossian 1:15-20

# Sermon Discussion

### The Study

A false teaching called *Gnosticism* was troubling the church at Colossae. Paul penned these verses to refute it. In doing so, he gives us important insight into the true identity of Jesus as the Son of God who was also fully human.

Gnostics reduced Jesus to a lower spirit who only imparted a rudimentary lesson. By paying their teachers, you could learn the higher lessons that led to enlightenment and their idea of salvation. So eight times, Paul describes Jesus as **ALL**.

V. 15 = Jesus is the visible presentation of God, of supreme rank & privilege over **ALL** creation.  
See John 14:9

V. 16 = He created **ALL** things.

V. 17 = He's eternal. He Is (not was) before **ALL** things. He holds **ALL** things together.

V. 18 = He is preeminent over **ALL** things.

V. 19 = In Him **ALL** that God is, is.

v. 20 = Jesus is able to reconcile **ALL** things to the Father

### The Discussion

*Warm Up:* In the world's idea of success and popularity, *who* is the most "famous" person you've met. Describe the encounter. What was your impression of them?

Paul's point is in this passage →  
**It's all about Jesus.**

He is not a *means* to an end. He **IS** The End. Being "Christian" isn't a *label* we slap on our *religious-selves* while applying *other* labels on other parts. Jesus **rules** over **ALL** we are. He **defines** who and what we are.

Spend some time with your group pondering that deeply. List all the things you are, all the various dimensions and labels of your personal identity.

Once you have that list, go back over it and discuss how your relationship with Jesus **OUGHT** to mold and shape each of them.

How does Jesus shape your gender, national citizenship, race, age, career, marital role or singleness, calling as a friend to others, etc?

Once you've had that discussion, consider together how all that refutes today's fascination with "*identity politics*" and why The Gospel offers the world a better way.