

Colossians 1:15-22 The deity of Jesus

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The underlying purpose of this letter is combating the heretical teaching. Part of The heretical teaching going around Colossae said that: 1) Jesus was just an angel and that salvation required the help of good angels and visions of higher knowledge to remove the barrier between God and man 2) God was good and matter was evil, so the idea of God becoming a person, a human, man and living among us so that through his death alone we would be justified and redeemed was not only thought of as untrue but would have been seen as ridiculous to the heretics.

In response to the heresy about Jesus and other claims that he discuss in chapter 2, Paul wants to establish, because he understands the critical importance of it, the deity of Christ. That Christ was yes fully man, not an angel as thought by the heretics, but also fully God. Paul uses the points of creation and redemption in not only explaining to the Colossian church and us as well, the deity of Christ but also the trinity of God. (1 Peter 2:21, Hebrews 4:15-16, John 14:1-17)

The truth of the **trinity** is this: 1) God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit 2) Each person is fully God. 3) There is one God. So in response to the heretics in Colossae, Paul is explaining in this letter that the gospel they heard and are walking in faith in is about Jesus. That Jesus is God, Jesus is the "son" of God, and Jesus is fully God. This is the reality of the trinity, the plurality of God. That all persons of the godhead are separate and all are equal because all are fully God.

What then is the distinction between the three? The distinction lies in the relation of the three to each other and the activity of the three in relation to the working of God. Let's look at this in the context of two areas: **creation and redemption.**

Ephesians 1:3-14

So as we begin to understand the Trinitarian nature of God, we see how God is one, working out in 3 persons, each still being God. We see that Jesus is not a created being or an angel but that Jesus is fully God. This is the idea that Paul is so fervently defending here in these verses of Colossians. Why then is the attack on the deity of Jesus from the Colossian heretics, historically from groups like the Arians, and currently from cults like the Jehovah's witnesses so crucial? ***Why is it essential to uphold the deity of the Son?*** (Romans 3:23-25, 1 Timothy 2:5)

Colossians 1:15-17 (Genesis 1:1-3, John 1:1-18, Hebrews 1:1-3)

Colossians 1:18-22 (John 3:16, Galatians 4:4, John 6:38, Romans 3:21-24, Romans 5:8-10, Romans 6:22-23, Ephesians 2:1-5)

We see then from v. 15-20, Jesus' role in the old creation and His role in the new creation that He is reconciling back to the Father.