

# VILLAGE

## CHURCH

### Bible Study Notes

**Intro Question:** Who do you look up to and why?

**Pray:** For our knowledge of God to flow from our heads into our hearts and increasingly transform our lives.

**Read:** Colossians 1:15-20

#### Questions about the passage:

- What is Jesus' relationship to God? 1:15
- What is Jesus' relationship to Creation? 1:15-17
- What is Jesus' relationship to the church? 1:18
- How do 'all things hold together' under Jesus? 1:16-17
- Why was the resurrection of Jesus significant? 1:18
- What did God achieve through the work of His Son? 1:20

#### Questions for us:

- When we think of God as 'Father', it can easily become entangled with our own experience of our earthly father, or other fatherly figures. How should we see God as Father?
- Paul says all things were created through Jesus as well as for him. Is this how you see your life? How can we increasingly orient our lives to live further into this truth? What change would that lead to?
- Paul says God made peace with you through Jesus' blood on the cross. Do you feel this peace?
- What is one truth from this passage that you most need to sit with?

**Pray:** That we would put Jesus in his rightful place

**Homework:** Meditate on one truth from this passage for five minutes

**Remind:** prayerfully consider who you could invite to the Life Series

# VILLAGE

## CHURCH

### Bible Study Notes

Paul's letter to the Christians of Colosse in Asia Minor is one of his shortest letters. Paul is writing to a young church that's just starting to figure out what it means to believe in Jesus and follow him. He urges them to dig into the riches of the gospel and let it shape the way they live. This week, we look at Paul's poem, which lays down a theological foundation for his letter.

#### Questions about the passage:

##### **What is Jesus' relationship to God? 1:15**

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. This makes understanding Jesus inseparable from understanding God's nature. He fulfils the Father's redemption mission on the cross.

##### **What is Jesus' relationship to Creation? 1:15-17**

He is the supreme authority over all creation, existing before it and functioning as the Father's agent in both creating and sustaining the cosmos. This positions Jesus not as a subordinate, but as the one through whom God's creative and redemptive work operates.

##### **What is Jesus' relationship to the church? 1:18**

Christ is the head of the church as his body. It is a relationship of unity where his life flows through Christians and where their identity is in him. This union is not passive but calls the church to live into this identity and their new life which was achieved by his death.

##### **How do 'all things hold together' under Jesus? 1:16-17**

Paul suggests all existence depends on Jesus' sustaining power. It suggests an ongoing, dynamic relationship rather than a one-time creative act.

##### **Why was the resurrection of Jesus significant? 1:18**

It validated Jesus' identity and authority, transformed the meaning of his death (sin and death's power is overcome) and established Jesus' position as head of his church.

##### **What did God achieve through the work of His Son? 1:20**

Through Jesus' physical death and resurrection, God reconciled us to Himself, restoring us to our rightful relationship - in union with God. Christians are not only given a new standing before God but a new life trajectory, in accordance with our status of new creation.

Praying to see 10% of the northern suburbs in gospel-centred churches & 250 by 2030 at Village Church who grow, gather, give & go, in love & joy to the glory of God

# VILLAGE

## CHURCH

### Bible Study Notes

#### Questions for us:

**When we think of God as 'Father', it can easily become entangled with our own experience of our earthly father, or other fatherly figures. How have you learned the character of God the Father?**

This can be a sensitive category, but Paul assures us that Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. God's character has been revealed through Jesus. Where might we have learned our perfect Heavenly Father wrong from our experience imperfect earthly fathers? How can our image of God be reshaped by the character of Jesus in the New Testament?

**Paul says all things were created through Jesus as well as *for* him. How can we increasingly orient our lives to live further into this truth?**

The world is constantly pulling our attention and affection towards lesser things. How we structure our habits, days and relationships are critical in ensuring our lives are oriented around this truth. Reflect on your own personal habits and rhythms and how they move you closer to God.

**Paul says God made peace with you through Jesus' blood on the cross.**

Reflect on how this this peace with God is manifesting itself in your relationship with Him and if there are any areas where it is not felt.

**What is one truth from this passage that you most need to sit with?**

Reflect on anything that stood out. Reflect on why it stood out and what it says to you.