



Sermon Study - Conversation Guide

March 24, 2024

“Jesus Holds All Things Together”

Colossians 1:15-18

This guide is a discipleship tool for personal reflection, family conversations, for home groups, and for Table Talk on Sundays @10:40 am and 12:15 pm on the Lowell Patio

Coastal Community Church
mycoastal.org

NOTES: Jesus Holds All Things Together (Col. 1:15-18) Andy Rock

Last week we talked about how Jesus rescued us from the dominion of darkness, the slavery of our self-salvation, and our rebellion. We're free.

1:13 *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

We're saved *from* slavery and *into* the Kingdom of the Son. It's the way of living with Jesus at the center of it all. I speak love because Jesus loves me. I live with faith in Jesus because He's so trustworthy. My strategies are not for my gain but for the gain of others. I forgive because Jesus forgave me. When I'm crushed, hurt, betrayed, or feel apart from God, I have Jesus by my side. I know He's already gone through all of that and will never leave me. That's how we truly live. Paul then explains:

1:15 *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

First, this is one of the many exceptionally clear passages in the New Testament that affirm the deepest of all truths with plain words: Jesus is God. God the Father is perfectly made manifest and reflected in Jesus. There's no space between the two.

Your Heavenly Father suffers for you, is full of forgiveness and love, and abounds in mercy. He has never left your side. He pursues you with grace and gentleness. Jesus is fully God and accomplished God the Father's desire for you, to forgive you, redeem you, and pull you out of the darkness and back into knowing and walking with Him.

Second, we need to understand the second half of this verse. What does it mean that Jesus is the firstborn over all creation? It's the legal language of inheritance rights. Paul talks this way to help us better understand Jesus and our standing with Him. Jesus is the firstborn over all creation, which means He has 'inherited' all of creation as His own.

Jesus claims us as His own. We have been made sons and daughters of the King of Kings. We are co-heirs with Jesus. This means we're included in Jesus' inheritance! His Kingdom, His power, peace, life, and love belong to us. You have an essential role in His purposes because of your glorious inheritance, which starts now and lasts for all eternity. *The purpose of your inheritance is to bring more sons and daughters out of the darkness and into this kingdom of love, mercy, generosity, and joy.*

1:16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Jesus is the firstborn over all creation because He created all things. Genesis chapter 1 says God created everything by speaking it all into existence with the Word. We read in John chapter 1 that Jesus is that Word. He is sovereign over all because it was all created by and for Him.

If you take a fish out of the water, it dies. That's its environment. We were created to live with Jesus. If we're removed from God, we die. We're created to be filled up with His life, healing, joy, and purpose. We don't call our cars broken when they're out of gas. They just need to be filled up. We don't call our phones worthless when they're out of battery. They just need to be plugged in. The same goes for us.

You are not broken beyond repair just because you're exhausted. You are not worthless because you're drained. You're worth healing and worthy of rest. That's the message of the cross. We're designed to find our rest, life, and love in the presence of Jesus Himself. So, what do you need to do this week, each day, to find your rest, life, and love in Him?

PRAYER – Jesus, forgive me for choosing You last so many times. For trusting everything and everyone else but You. I'm sorry. Jesus, I invite You to be at the center of my heart again. I surrender my entire life to You. I take back my trust in You and my love for You. I choose to walk with You in every moment and through every event. I'm all yours, Jesus.

1:17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

We trust Jesus when everything is going great. But when we become afraid and worried, sometimes we don't think 'Jesus will hold this, and me, together.' Why? Because we have an outcome in mind. I want to control things and people. I want my assumptions and my opinions to be correct, even if my assumptions lead to the wrong conclusion.

What I'm learning right now is trusting Jesus means total surrender. He's got something better for me. So, I surrender my outcomes to Him. When I'm wrong, Jesus will tell me with all the love, gentleness, and truth I need. Why? He's joined me to Himself. I'm literally part of His body now. He's holding me together because He's supreme over all things. There's nothing He cannot do. So, who am I to insist on my way, my timing? Jesus is the most trustworthy person I know. Will you trust Him with me?

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDELINES: Tips for great conversation

- We aren't here to teach/fix each other, but to share our experiences.
- Show respect by listening to one another, asking clarifying questions.
- If you're quick to share, allow space and time for others to speak up.
- If you're slow to speak, your experience is valuable so please share.

INTRO

Invite everyone to introduce themselves and then read the Bible verses.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What part of the message and Scripture was most encouraging, and which part is most challenging?
2. What did You notice about God, and what did you notice about yourself as well as other people?

GOSPEL EXCHANGE (REDEMPTIVE WORK)

Jesus asks us to give Him our burdens (Matthew 11:28-29), whatever they may be (a lie we have believed about God or ourselves, our hurt or negative emotions, or even our concerns for loved ones), so He can carry them for us, giving us His peace (His completeness) in exchange.

What do you want to exchange with Jesus today?

What is the burden? "Lord Jesus, I give you my..."

What's His gift? "Lord Jesus, I receive your..."

ACTION QUESTIONS

1. What is one step of obedience you can take this week, based on what you've discovered today? (*NOTE – Consider prayerfully asking God to answer this question for you, taking 30-45 seconds to listen in silence, writing what you heard. If nothing comes clear, keep praying this week.*)
2. During the coming week, who can you share what you learned today? (*NOTE – Consider repeating the same step with this question as the previous question.*)