

*“To Live as a Friend of Christ”*

HOPE CHURCH

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Col. 1:15-20 and John 15:12-15

**Final thoughts/Reflective Questions:**

- Are you a friend of God?
- How do we live as friend of God? What does that look like?
- Result of Friendship with God: We become passionate about what He is passionate about!

**Ways we often view Christ:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Christ

\_\_\_\_\_ Christ

\_\_\_\_\_ Christ

Two things that are essential for our spiritual growth:

- 1) Understanding the \_\_\_\_\_ Christ is Crucial (Col 1:15-20)
- 2) Understanding Our \_\_\_\_\_ Christ is Crucial (John 15:15)

*Colossians 1:15-20*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

## Understanding the Identity of Christ - His Greatness!

He is \_\_\_\_\_, and He is \_\_\_\_\_ friend.

- a. The greatness of Christ (v15), where the fullness of God dwelled (v19).
  - (v15a) Jesus has perfectly revealed God to us (also John 1:18).
  - (v15b) "Firstborn"
- b. He is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of All Creation (v16).
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ it – for it says "By Him"
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ it – for it says "Through Him"
  - For His own \_\_\_\_\_ – for it says "For Him"
- c. He holds \_\_\_\_\_ together (v17).
- d. He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (v18).
- e. He is the first to raise from the dead (v18).
- f. The glory of Christ revealed:
  - Isaiah's vision in Isaiah 6:1-5
  - Casting of nets in Luke 5:1-8
  - Calming of the raging sea in Mark 4:41
- g. Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all things (Colossians 1:20)
  - Definition of reconciliation: restoring a broken relationship.
- h. What we learn from our Colossians passage:
  - Christ is so much more than just our friend.

## Understanding Our Identity in Christ – Friends!

If Christ did rise from the dead, Now What? What does this mean for us?

How we receive our new identity in Christ:

*Those who believe and trust Christ's message, according to the Bible, are giving a new identity in Christ! When we surrender our lives to Christ, we became a new person. Part of our new identity includes that we are now friends with Christ!*

### John 15:12-15

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command.<sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you

John 15 12-15 Teaches us that:

- Christ calls us to a \_\_\_\_\_ by love
- Christ calls us to \_\_\_\_\_
- Christ calls us to \_\_\_\_\_ with Him