

## Equations

### Context

At the time of the Apostle Paul's writing of the book of Colossians, false teachers had crept up and were denying the deity of Jesus. To combat the destructive false claims Paul emphasized Jesus' deity, Jesus' connection to God the Father and Christ's sacrificial death on the cross for sin.

This week our passage drives home the message of who Jesus is, exactly. You walk away from a text like this with the undeniable reality that Jesus is God. WARNING: these verses are packed with truth!

### Questions for Study- Read Colossians 1:15-19

1. Take your time working through this text and jot down the things that stand out to you. Spend some time discussing what you jotted down.
2. Vs. 15 – Who is "He"? What does it mean to be an "image" of something? Who is the perfect image of God? What can we learn about God through the person and work of Jesus Christ? What passages can you reference to build your case?
3. Does the title "*first born over all creation*" indicate that Jesus is a created being as some cults claim? (See Hebrews 1:1-12) The title "firstborn" can either mean "firstborn" in a chronological sense or "firstborn" in the sense of position or rank (see Ps. 89:27-29 referring to David the youngest of eight). Which is it in this instance?
4. According to verse 16, who is the creator of the universe? See John 1:1-3, 14. How does this shape your understanding of Jesus? What is Paul speaking of when he refers to, "*visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities*"?
5. Why is the human head an essential part of a healthy functioning human body? Why is the metaphor of the head of a body a good illustration of a rightly functioning relationship between Christ and His body, the Church?
6. Vs. 19 (see also Col 2:9)– How would you describe "*fullness*" of God that dwells in Jesus?
7. What effect on our lives should such a "high view" of Jesus have?
8. How does this view impact the way you see both the "joys" and the "challenges" in your life?