

First Things First

Part II

Colossians 1:15-18

When you get right down to it, how badly do we *need* God? Really; practically speaking, based upon our personal day-to-day choices and activities, how dependent are you and I upon God? Would our need best be described as life support oxygen from a ventilator or as a casual, thoughtless breath of fresh air? ...somewhere in between perhaps? ...or possibly based on the need of the moment in crisis?

Oh, we know the right answer to give on a given Sunday, even on the most liberal of occasions, but pragmatically speaking how consciously am I aware of my need for “God” and more exactly, God revealed in Jesus Christ.

How seriously are we to take God’s most basic purpose and desire for each of us when He expressed “. . . that He Himself might come to have first place in everything”? Our goal today is not only to define **why** Christ having first place is essential but also **how** we can make Him first place.

Life Response

1. This week MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on Colossians 1:16, “*For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.*”
 - (a) Make as many personal observations as possible from this passage that have significance in your life, if they are true.
 - (b) How does this verse relate to or define Col. 1:18, “...so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”
2. If this were the benchmark or reference for your life how would it shape your thinking (Col. 3:1-3) about your personal goals, values, etc; your marriage/family; profession; social activities, etc. List those which first come to mind and define a fresh approach to how you can rethink steps you can take “..that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”
3. How does the application regarding time, accountability, and observability bring greater value to the purpose and ministry of our Cell Groups, Mini Churches, Care Groups, and the 3 Vital Relationships?

4. As stated in the introduction “When you get right down to it. . . How seriously are we to take God’s most basic purpose and desire for each of us. . .” The bottom line is “What will I do about it?” As you think about this all-encompassing question, write a brief prayer that best expresses what you know is the answer for you, your family, and our church?

“...so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.” Col. 1:18

What Does It Mean?

1. He is visible - *Reality*
2. He is first born - *Purpose*
3. He is before all things...hold together - *Security*
4. He is head of the body - *Authority*
5. He is first born from dead – *Hope*

What Does It Matter?

General: Col. 3:1-3

A Mindset/Attitude

Specific: Col. 3:4ff

Relational/35 areas

What Will Kill It?

1. 1st person singular “I” SIN
2. Deception
3. Disobedience
4. Distractions
5. Domination

How Can I Apply It?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Time/Priorities | Vital Relationship with God |
| 2. Accountability/Relationships | Vital Relationship with each other |
| 3. Observability/Proclamation | Vital Relation with “outsiders” |