

## The Centrality of Christ

**Col 1:15-20** - *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 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. 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. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 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.* NIV

### 1. Christ The Driving Force In Creation.

**2 Cor 4:4** - *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* NIV

**Ezek 1:26** - *Above the expanse over their heads was what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man.* NIV

In Him the nature and being of God have been perfectly revealed.

**2 Cor 4:4-6** - *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.* NIV

**Heb 1:3** - *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.* NIV

The Son of God becomes a man and in his humanity displays the glory of the invisible God.

**Heb 1:2** - *but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.* NIV

“In Him” seems to assign Christ as the “sphere” within which the work of creation takes place.

The one through whom divine work of redemption has been accomplished is the one through whom the divine act of creation took place in the beginning.

The highest angel-princes, like the rest of creation, are subject to Christ as the One in whom, through whom, and for whom they were created are centered in the Son.

## **2. Lord Of The Universe And Head Of The Church.**

**Heb 1:2-3** - *but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.* NIV

For Paul, the living Christ is the unifying principle of life.

Christ is the source of the churches life, and also the churches Lord.

## **3. Christ The Driving Force In Reconciliation.**

The totality of the divine essence and power is resident in Christ.

The fullness of the divine power is revealed in Christ in the work of reconciliation.

**Eph 1:9-10** - *And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment-to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.* NIV

Peace has been made through Christ, by the shedding of his blood on the cross.

Everything in the universe has been subjected to Christ even as everything was created for Him.