

Introduction

Look at the pattern - see the two section 1 & 4 with their parallel fist lines 'Who is...' and the transition bits in the middle 2 & 3. 'and in him'; with their echoes in 16a and 20a 'through him'. The first part reveals Jesus as the new creation the second, applies the same picture to us as his new creation in Christ.

1 The supreme Jesus

Colossians 1:15 [Who is] He is the image [icon] of the invisible God, Jesus has always been in the exact image and nature of God, The word used is the one we get 'icon' from. Icons are intended to reveal in our thinking and worship more of the wonder of Jesus – the icon of God. - in human form Jesus is the perfect image of man.

v15 So Jesus has complete priority in time and in rank John 1.1

Paul goes on v16: All that God made he made by means of Jesus

All the power structures of the world owe there existence to Jesus. For Paul these powers were also unseen forces working in the world. Jesus has all the power and authority

His power is current and active as a result of his work of creation.

Everything is held together in him and continues to do so

2 The supreme Saviour

1 Corinthians 12:27 Col 18: This is the Jesus we belong to in belonging to the church

He is our head also; Jesus is the Head of the church - not men or women; we are merely servants of the King,

Paul says in Ephesians 1:22 -23 head over everything **for the church**,

So he is not only head over us and we owe our allegiance to him but he is head for us

This headship is for our benefit - so that we can be a 'new creation' taking on the image of God.

His headship gives us all the power and authority we have seen

1 Chronicles 29 11: you are exalted as head over all.

So this headship means he brings to us all power and authority over all creation.

v18 This is new creation achieved in the resurrection of Jesus. The proof of his Lordship and supremacy is in the resurrection. he is 'the firstborn' - the first of many.

Resurrection means new transformed life. Paul tells us how this has been achieved.

v19 - 20: This is the nature of the new creation. Now we have a new relationship with God through Jesus

v22:Holiness – Jesus; the image of God is Man as God intended him to be –It is what Jesus is transforming us into.2 Corinthians 3:18 Holiness is the mark of the new creation –

v27- 28–shown by our lifestyle and word and proclamation and teaching.

our witness for him is endued by his energy v29:

Paul says this is resurrection power Ephesians 1.19-20 In Romans 8.11 Paul tells us that this is the Holy Spirit at work

Conclusion

So all the resurrection power of Jesus is at work in us. v16:-17

Wow"!! That is our Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. How do you respond to this Quote *"There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan "[C.S Lewis Christianity and Culture]*
2. v16 all things were **[have been]** created by [through] him and for him" Why is important that Jesus' power is 'current'
3. Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important in who and what he is?
4. *"There is a whole range of ethical norms which God built into his world: respect for persons and property, maintenance of family life and of the ecological order of creation, justice between individuals and groups. Christians must be in the forefront of those working to promote such causes. Many opportunities to speak about Jesus will occur in the undertaking of such work" NT Wright Colossians & Philippians Tyndale NTC p80*
Where do you see this working out in our personal/Cell/Church life?