

All Things; Colossians 1:15-20

- I. All
 - a. It is one of those 'all inclusive' words we are warned never to use
 - b. In marriage counseling these kinds of words close off communication
 - c. These words exclude everything else except what we are talking about – 'you always...', 'you never...'
 - d. In our passage of text, God uses the idea of 'all' or 'everything' 8 times in 6 verses
 - e. I get the idea He is trying to exclude everything else
- II. All Things Were Created
 - a. Colossians 1:15–16 (ESV); ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
 - i. If we go back to creation we see God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit there – "Let us make man in our image" (Genesis 1:26)
 - ii. God spoke the world into existence – "And God said" is before each day of creation
 - iii. Jesus is the Word of God – John 1:1
 - iv. As God spoke everything into existence Jesus created it
 - b. And this creation continues – "whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities"
 - i. Romans 13:1 (ESV); Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.
 - ii. In today's environment people are attacked and demeaned when they hold an opinion that is different – or when their opponent holds a particular political office
 - iii. I see people who post (or say) many things that are derogatory and hurtful to people who don't have the same political or social view
 - iv. The plain truth is there are Christians on both sides of just about every view
 - v. When we demean others for basically not having the same view as us are we loving our neighbor?
 - vi. God puts people in positions of authority for His reasons
 - vii. We should seek to learn the lessons God wants us to learn from the situations He puts us in
 - c. We must remember, Jesus created all things
- III. All Things Hold Together
 - a. Colossians 1:17–18 (ESV); ¹⁷ And 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, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.
 - b. Jesus sustains all things – without Him there would be nothing because He holds (sustains) all things

- c. Without Him we would have nothing and be nothing
 - i. It is God who has placed you here in this congregation
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 12:18 (ESV); But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.
 - iii. It is God who has given you the talents (to serve in His Kingdom as well as to provide for yourself and your family)
 - iv. Matthew 25:14–15 (ESV); ¹⁴ “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.
 - d. God is moving (and working) in His creation
 - i. He gave Peter a measure of encouragement (or admonishment) when Peter had the vision of the animals let down on a sheet (Acts 10:9-16)
 - ii. He gave Paul a push in the right direction towards Macedonia
 - iii. Acts 16:6–10 (ESV); ⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.
 - iv. God did not just set the laws of nature and science in motion and step back – although some would have you think this
 - v. God is moving, working, involving Himself, intervening in our lives to help us become more like His Son, Jesus
 - vi. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV); ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
 - e. Jesus is the sustainer of life, of everything, the Head of the Church!
- IV. Reconcile All Things
- a. Colossians 1:19–20 (ESV); ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
 - b. From the beginning of Christianity, this word, ‘reconcile’ was only used for God’s work redeeming mankind to Himself
 - c. Aside from the 3 times it is used in the New Testament, it was only used by Christian authors relating to God’s redeeming work
 - i. Ephesians 2:13–16 (ESV); ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in

place of the two, so making peace,¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

- ii. To restore to friendship or harmony, settle, resolve¹
- iii. Just what, exactly, is God restoring?
- iv. The Garden relationship – walking and talking with God having nothing in the way of our relationship with Him

d. Jesus is the reconciler, who redeems us with His blood

V. All Things

- a. If Jesus is the creator of all things
- b. If Jesus is the sustainer of all things
- c. If Jesus is the reconciler of mankind
- d. Colossians 1:21–23 (ESV);²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.
- e. What is holding us back?

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, [Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary](#). (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).