



## JESUS SUSTAINS THE COSMOS



Message by Tom Mercer | March 10-11, 2018 | *The Book of Colossians I/IV, Part 3*

Syncretism: merging different philosophies to form a “superior religion”

1. Faith followed by...
2. Passive ignorance followed by...
3. Syncretism followed by...
4. Defeat

A half-baked understanding of Jesus leads to a half-hearted commitment to Jesus.

*John 1:18, John 1:1-4, Colossians 1:15-17*



Jesus outranks everyone and everything because:

**1. He is an ultra-HD portrait of God.**

*Colossians 1:15*

- 1—Creation revealed His power. (Romans 1:20)
- 2—The Bible revealed His holiness. (Hebrews 1:1)
- 3—Jesus revealed His love. (Hebrews 1:2)

*eikon*  
precise copy

**2. He created everyone and everything.**

*prototokos*  
family rank

*Romans 1:25; Colossians 1:16, 2:18; Hebrews 2:5; 1 Corinthians 6:3*



**3. He operates beyond everyone else's limitations.**

*John 1:14, Genesis 1:1, John 8:58, Exodus 3:14, Colossians 1:17*

**4. Everyone and everything would disintegrate without Him.**

*Colossians 1:17*



1. If you could create anything, what would it be? If you could remove something from God's creation, what would it be?

*Read Colossians 1:15-17*

2. How do these verses speak to Jesus' centrality in and supremacy over creation?
3. Paul calls Christ the "Firstborn over all creation". In the Jewish world, the word "firstborn" had less to do about birth order and more about authority and preeminence. How does knowing Jesus is "firstborn" change the way you look at your current situation, decisions that are before you, and the choices you need to make?
4. What do you think it means for all things to be created "through" Him?

*Read John 1:1-4.*

5. Why do you think John began his Gospel by talking about how Jesus existed from eternity past?
6. Is there anyone in your oikos who believes that Jesus was a prophet who did good works, but wasn't God incarnate? How do John's words argue against that idea?
7. Why is it important that Jesus was not just fully human, but fully God also?
8. If Jesus wasn't God, could He have been saved us from sin, death and Hell?

*Read Genesis 1:1-25*

9. What words or phrases are the same or similar in Genesis 1 and John 1:1-5? Why was it important for John to point out that Jesus had a role in creation?
10. What is significant and logical about the order of creation? What did God say about each day of creation?
11. What happens when we elevate creation over the creator? Look at Romans 1:20-25.
12. How does knowing that Jesus holds all things together encourage you in your daily life?

