

The Reason for the Season

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Colossians 1:18-20.

B. This text may be one of the earliest Christmas hymns.

II. Jesus is the Lord over all creation.

III. Jesus is the Lord of the new creation.

A. The church is the new creation—it is something different and new that the world has never seen before.

1. The church is not just a set of rules.
2. The church is neither a set of emotional misfits.
3. The church is not supposed to be religious zealots after feelings.
4. Paul corrects these notions by affirming that Jesus is the head of the church.

B. That the church is a body is one of the most important truths.

1. It is essential that a church have its head in place supplying direction, maintaining order, giving it health, coordinating activities, and supplying life to its members.
2. We fail to see that the church consists of individuals.
3. We function as individuals, but we belong to the whole.

C. The reason that Jesus is the head is because Jesus is the beginning.

1. He is the beginning of the church.
 - a. We are part of a new humanity that God has brought about on earth.
 - b. Jesus sought out the church like a priceless pearl.
2. Jesus was the first person raised from the dead—He is the one who possesses the resurrection life that He gives to each of us. (I John 5:11)
 - a. Because we have a new life, we no longer have to yield to temptation.
 - b. We are expected to live at a higher level as a Christian, and we can.
 - c. The power that the Christian has is Christ in him.

D. The works of Jesus.

1. Paul carefully links Jesus' redeeming work and His deity.
2. Jesus had to be God to do what He did.
3. Only Jesus makes a claim of being both God and man.
4. The reconciliation here points to the cessation of enmity. (I Corinthians 11)
 - a. This is not universalism.
 - b. This points to the cessation of the hostility of God's enemies.
 - c. The answer of evil in the world will at last be answered. (Philippians 2)
5. All of this is made possible through the cross.

Application questions:

1. How does it help to know Jesus position in the church to understand what the church is?

2. How is Jesus the head of the church?

3. What things do you look forward to seeing God bring into reconciliation?
