

## ***Colossians 1:15-20***

**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. **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. **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.

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## ***Genesis 1:26-27***

**26** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

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***Psalm 89:27***

**27** And I will make him the firstborn,  
the highest of the kings of the earth.

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## ***Colossians 2:10, 15***

**9** For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,**10** and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority...**15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

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## ***2 Chronicles 5:13-14***

**13** ...and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the Lord,

“For he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever,”

the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, **14** so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

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## ***N.T. Wright***

“It is to this Jesus Christ, none other, that the Colossians now belong in belonging to the church. This is the moment when, according to the careful structure of the poem, the thought moves from creation to new creation. Paul starts where the Colossians are, as members of the one world-wide people of God. If God’s people are the new humanity, the metaphor of a human body is utterly appropriate to express not only mutual interdependence, but also, as here, an organic and dependent relation to Christ himself.”

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