

**THE KINGDOM OF THE BELOVED SON:
LIFE UNDER THE REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST**

Topics:

1. Our Cosmic Deliverance: Where the Christian Life Begins (Col 1:13-14)
- 2. Christ is All, and in All: Our Identity in the Kingdom (Col 3:11)**
3. The Society of Jesus: Our Church in the Kingdom (Col 3:12-17)
4. *In Nomine Christi*: Our Conduct in the Kingdom (Col 3:17)
5. The Dream Home: Our Families in the Kingdom (Col 3:18-21)
6. The Heaven-Bound Heart: The Quest for the Kingdom (Col 3:1-4)

CHRIST IS ALL, AND IN ALL: OUR IDENTITY IN THE KINGDOM

I. A Good Name is Better Than Riches (Prov 22:1)

II. Colossians 3:11: Christ is All, and in All

- A. “Here”—a Very Important Word
1. It locates or situates the five benefits of v 11 in either the new self; the image of the Creator, or the Creator himself.
- B. The Benefits of Being “Here,” in the Image of the Creator
1. The abolition of our old identities
 - a. “there is **not** Greek and Jew...”
 - b. “circumcised and uncircumcised...”
 - c. “barbarian, Scythian...”
 - d. “slave, free...”
 2. The acquisition of a new identity
 - a. “Christ is all...”
 - b. “and in all.”

Outside the Image of God	In the Image of God
Jew/Circumcised/God’s People	Christ <i>is</i> all, Christ <i>in</i> all
Greek	
Barbarian	
Scythian	
Slave	

III. If Christ is all and in all, then we must...

- A. *Reject* the old names in favor of Christ
- B. *Find* our “all” in Christ
- C. *Conform* ourselves to Christ
- D. *Love* one another for the sake of Christ

Embracing God’s Word: “I accept the pronouncement of Almighty God—that there is no more Greek and Jew, no more circumcised and uncircumcised, no more barbarian and Scythian, no more slave and free; but only Christ, who is all, and in all. In light of this, I resolve to see myself and others as God sees us: not as separate nations lost in darkness, but as one people redeemed and united under the name of Jesus Christ. Consequently, I set aside the old identities that have been given to me: the names of social-ethnic identity, and reputation. I find my completeness in Christ and not in my achievements or my sins. I conform to Christ—his heart, his beliefs, his ways, and his word. And, for the sake of Christ Jesus who dwells in us all, I choose to love and honor my fellow Christians regardless of their social, ethnic, or cultural differences.”

Questions for further discussion:

1. What problems would the different groups of people in v 11 have with one another?
2. What does Paul mean by “Christ is all”? What does he not mean?
3. What does Paul mean when he says that Christ is *in* all?
4. “If Christ is all that matters, I do not have to care about my reputation.” Discuss and respond.
5. “Since Christ is all that matters, the quality of my work does not.” Discuss and respond.
6. What are some ways that we allow the “old” names to matter? How do we respond to these attempts by the world to infringe into the community of the kingdom?