

**Title:** Expand the Frame

**Text:** Colossians 1:15-23

**Target:** Your view of God determines the value you place upon God, thus possibly creating a version of God that is way too small.

- I. **Jesus reigns in Equality with God:** *“He is the image of the invisible God”* (Col. 1:15a)
  - A. **Claims to be God:** *“I and the Father are one...”* John 10:30 \*they sought to stone Jesus for this.
  - B. **Shares same title as God:** *“Truly, Truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”* (John 8:58)
  - C. **Radiance of God:** *“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature”* (Hebrews 1:3) \*Matthew 17:2: *“He was transfigured before them...”*
- II. **Jesus Existed before Creation with God:** *“the firstborn of all creation”* (Col. 1:15b)
  - A. **Meaning of the Firstborn:** Prototokos - Priority, Ruler.
  - B. **Misunderstanding of the “Son”:** Unique, one of Kind.
    1. **John 3:16:** *“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten son....”*
    2. **John 1:14:** *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only son.”*
- III. **Jesus spoke the world into Existence as God:** *“for by him all things were created....”* (Vs. 16a)
  - A. **Nothing Happens without Him:** *“all things were created through him and for him”* (Col. 1:16c)
    1. **Heaven and Earth**
    2. **Visible and Invisible**
    3. **Thrones or Dominions**
    4. **Rulers or Authorities**
  - B. **Nothing Holds together without Him:** *“and he is before all things, and in him all things hold together”* (Col. 1:17)
- IV. **Jesus is Exalted above all Authorities by God:** *“And he is the head of the body...”* (Vs. 18a)
  - A. **Over the Church:** *“the church”* (Vs. 18b)
  - B. **Over Life and Death:** *“He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.”* (Vs. 18c)
  - C. **Over Everything:** *“that in everything he might be preeminent.”* (Vs. 18d)
- V. **Jesus is the Embodiment of the fullness of God:** *“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.”* (Vs. 19)
  - A. **For Reconciliation:** *“through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth, making peace by blood of his cross”* (Vs. 20)
  - B. **For Presentation:** *“...in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.”* (Vs. 22)

**Takeaway:** *“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”* - A.W. Tozer