



# SUPREME

PASTOR ED NEWTON SEPTEMBER 30 & OCTOBER 1 EXPAND THE FRAME

Community Bible Church  
Sermon Discussion Questions: Oct 1, 2023  
Pastor Ed Newton

**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...”*

**Question #1:** *Why do you believe it was important to the Biblical authors to repeatedly remind their readers of Jesus true divine identity? What dangers lie behind having a distorted view of Jesus’ characteristics and His equality with God? How has your understanding of Jesus grown since first coming to the faith?*

- 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)

**Question #2:** Verse 16 states that all things were created *“for Him.”* Explain in your own words what it means that we are created *“for Him?”* How should this truth shape our understanding of our personal purpose in this world?

**Question #3:** Do you believe all creation is fulfilling its intended purpose as being created for Jesus? Why or why not? What examples from scripture and the natural world demonstrate creation’s intended purpose of being made for God?

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)

**Question #4:** Verse 18 states that Jesus is the head of the Church and preeminent over everything in the world, including life and death. *What hope does Jesus’ authority and supreme power over everything give us as His followers? And at what points in our life is this hope most needed?*

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

**Question #5:** Are you living your life and structuring your priorities to genuinely align with the rightful place of Jesus in your life? What adjustments can you make in your life or priorities to more accurately reflect Jesus’ rightful position in both your heart and the world?