

Sermon Discussion Guide:

# Who Comes First?

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Scripture: **Colossians 1:15–18**

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## OVERVIEW

In today's passage, the apostle Paul provides a robust theology of the supremacy of Christ and the preeminence of Christ. First, Christ's supremacy can be seen in creation, since Christ is the exalted *agent* of creation and end of creation. Second, Christ's supremacy is a present reality for the Church. Neither popes, nor pastors, nor congregations can usurp the preeminent authority of Christ. And third, Christ's supremacy must be a present reality in our own lives. It is an *objective* reality, but it must be *subjective* in our hearts. If we embrace this reality, **the supremacy of Christ means that 2024 can be different.**

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## CORROBORATING TEXTS

Colossians 2:9; Romans 12:5-8; Colossians 2:19; Ephesians 1:20-23; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Colossians 3:1-10; 1 John 2:17; Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Psalm 102:27; Hebrews 13:8

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Christ's supremacy can be seen in all of creation. What are some competing views in the culture that challenge this truth? What are the dangers that such challenges pose for Christians, both inside and outside the Church?
2. Christ's supremacy is a present reality for the Church. What are some competing views in the Church that challenge this truth? What are the dangers that such challenges pose?
3. Have you had any personal experiences with heavy-handed authority—or even abuse—in the Church? If so, how did you respond to it? How did others in your church respond to it?
4. Christ's supremacy must be a present reality in our own lives. Was there a time when Christ's supremacy wasn't evident in your life? If so, what were the consequences? What circumstances did God allow in your life to get your attention and to recalibrate your thinking?
5. If you believe Christ is Lord of your life, how is Christ preeminent in your marriage and family? How is Christ preeminent in your vocation? Or your finances?
6. In what ways are you looking to change in 2024? Are you trusting that Christ can lead and equip you? How does a renewed focus on His supremacy change your outlook for 2024?
7. We can be different because Christ doesn't change. How does this truth give you hope for the coming year? In what ways can you encourage others in your life with this hope?