

Series: There is Nothing Greater Than Walking with Jesus

Lesson 2: “Jesus Holds All Things Together”

***Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.**



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What are some things that are very difficult to keep together, to keep in one piece? (*Bands, the band members love music but want to dominate or not be dominated. Businesses, great workers move on, lousy ones drag on. Marriages, they take work. Families, they have personalities that sometimes conflict. Churches, they are like bands. The universe, it's not supposed to be able to keep running. It's supposed to be winding down. We'll talk more about that miracle later in this lesson.*)

Transition: So what do all these examples of failure have to do with our faith?

Bottom Line: Apart from Jesus' Truth, life explodes. It is in the power, the wisdom and the knowledge of Christ that all things will hold together like gorilla glue is bonding them.

LESSON PLAN

Read Colossians 1:13-14

1. Put this Truth into a simple understandable sentence.

Question: How is the world outside of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ a kingdom of darkness?

Life is like choosing a door or a curtain that you have no idea what is really behind it. You just have to guess because all truth is subjective rather than absolute. No one can know anything for certain when they are trying to make choices that affect their lives. Life does fall apart. It cannot hold together forever outside of Jesus, the Son of God. So, Jesus is the key to coming out of the darkness and into this Kingdom. John calls Jesus the Light of the World. He is the One who brought light to darkness. Think about it. No one can really explain where we came from. We are in darkness with only a basket of theories that have no way to be proven. What is moral and ethical truth? What is light to one is darkness to another. Who is correct? To an animal rights activist the eating of animals is darkness. To the pro-choice, the forbidding of abortion is darkness cast upon women. You see, the sides of many issues in life are covered with a darkness that cannot be removed. How do we remove darkness? God says it's by coming into the Kingdom of Christ. It's the only way. Now let's explore HOW Jesus could accomplish this miraculous task.



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Read Colossians 1:15-20

2. He, Jesus, the Son God loves, is called what?

3. In what way is Jesus the image of the Almighty God who is invisible to mankind?

Question: What are some things of darkness that Christ has brought into the light, into His kingdom understanding, throughout your life?

4. The firstborn has the rights of the heir. The inherit everything their father possesses. What rights does that give Jesus?

Question: How is this a direct conflict to the idea that Jesus is one of the roads to God, one of the ways to the Creator of life?

It is in direct conflict. If Jesus inherited ALL of creation, then no one else owns any part of it. That means Buddha, Mohammed, not even Natural Selection because that is considered a Law of creation or nature. Jesus is Lord of Nature. That makes it very dangerous for me to try to be too politically correct in our society. Jesus is Lord of everything ever created.

5. All things in heaven and earth, both visible and invisible, were created by Jesus. What are some of the invisible things Jesus created that we know exist?

6. What does it mean that even the thrones and powers, rulers and authorities of this world were created by Him?

Thrones and powers was a Jewish term for the order of angels in heaven. Jesus created the angels and gave them their order. Rulers and authorities apply to the ruler of this world. Even if the powers are corrupt, they were created by Jesus and will stand before Him in judgment. Even evil rulers were at one time fearfully and wonderfully made and chose to rebel against their Creator just like Satan did. The fact still remains; they belong to Jesus rather than they



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like it or admit it. Note that Jesus did not come into existence when Mary gave birth to Him. He had already created all that has ever been created. He only came into this world through childbirth to teach the world how to be born again of the water and the Spirit, so we could have the opportunity of a new birth into the holiness we were designed to wear and which we discarded with our free will.

7. All things hold together in Christ. Can you describe some of those things and how powerful this truth should be to us?

Question: Let's say that I've been in a heated argument with a friend that seems to have no end in sight. They refuse to resolve the issue. I'm not emotionally holding together very well. How can this chaos be removed by Jesus?

*Have someone read **Romans 12:9-21** and then explain how this directs our steps away from chaos. Have another person read **Matthew 5:38-42**. How does this directive from Jesus remove chaos? The slapping was much like challenging you to a duel. Rather than kill or be killed, end the problem by willingly offering the other cheek instead of fighting. This isn't self-defense, it is an example of being a peace-maker. You seek peace with humility. You have no desire to escalate but to end the chaotic situation. You are willing to humble yourself for the sake of peace.*

8. How does God Himself live up to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5?

Question: How does Jesus' example cause your chaos to pale in comparison? How could that give you great strength and remove chaos from capturing your life?

Now, let's further explore the Truth of all things being held together in Christ. The meaning is, that they are kept in the present state; their existence, order, and arrangement are continued by his power. If unsupported by him, they would fall into disorder, or sink back to nothing. This is the ascription to Christ of infinite power - for nothing less could be sufficient to uphold the universe; and of infinite wisdom - for this is needed to preserve the harmonious



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action of the suns and systems of which it is composed. None could do this but one who is divine; and so we see the reason why He is represented as the image of the invisible God. He is the great and glorious and ever-active agent by whom the perfections of God are made known.

One of the key words in the Colossians passage above ("...and in Christ all things hold together") is the Greek word sunistemi which means "to stand-together," "to be compacted together," "to cohere," "to be constituted with." This passage can be applied to the structure of the atom, for example. The nucleus of every atom is held together by what physicists call "weak" and "strong" forces. (Physicists today are familiar with four basic forces in the natural world: gravity, electrical forces, a "strong," and a "weak" nuclear force which act at very short ranges. The first two forces decrease in strength inversely with the square of the distance between two objects. Recently two additional close-range, weak gravitational forces have been suggested. These are thought to be quantum mechanical corrections to Newton's Law of Gravitation.)

The nucleus of the atom contains positively-charged and neutral particles--to use a simplistic model. Mutual electrostatic repulsion between the like-positive protons would drive the nucleus apart if it were not for the "strong force" which binds the nucleus together.

The third New Testament passage which talks about atomic structure and physics is 2 Peter: "But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise and the elements (atoms) will be dissolved with fire and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up." (2 Peter 3:10)

The Greek word translated "elements" in this passage from Colossians is stoicheion which means the building blocks of the universe, or "the ordered arrangement of things." It can also mean the "atomic elements." The word translated "dissolved" is literally (in Greek) luo, meaning "unloosed." This suggests a further, future letting-go of the nuclear binding force that holds the nucleus together. This passage strongly suggests that the active power of God is behind the mysterious strong force that holds every atomic nucleus together. If this is so, all the other fundamental forces of nature are likewise forces that originate with Christ and His sustaining direction of the old creation.

If God were to merely relax His grasp on the universe every atom would come apart "by fire" (that is, by nuclear fire). God dynamically sustains the universe, including the atoms themselves. They are "stable" only because force from the spiritual realm is being supplied into the physical nuclear binding fields. Whatever we may think of God and physics, the Bible leaves us with no room to doubt that God does care about the sparrow that falls to the ground, the widow, the orphan, and the homeless. He does not lose track of His children and watches over them with infinite, patient, intimate Fatherly care. He sustains the universe by His mighty word of power. He also alters the status quo and, in response to prayer, frequently changes the course of entire nations.



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Breakout Group or Discussion Time: How could you use this information to help someone understand the incredible love of God for us?

Final Question: What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?