



Dgroup Discussion Guide for September 16, 2018 Christ is Supreme – Is Jesus Supreme in Your Life?

Scripture: Colossians 1:16

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him.

There are a lot of heresies that exist today. Heresies like these affect us and our spiritual life. We have to understand that our belief system affects our perspective. This in turn affects our values and dictates our priorities. And our priorities will direct our behavior.

The people of Colosseae were also faced with a lot of heresies and that is why the Apostle Paul addressed these letters to them. The purpose of the book of Colossians is to confront wrong teachings in the church of Colossae about the deity of Christ.

What we believe impacts our behavior. Right believing will result to right living, while wrong thinking will lead to wrong living. We are deeply influenced by what we think and motivated to do things that come to our minds. Sadly, many of us today are short of proper thinking and this leads to improper behavior.

Right belief is the byproduct of having the right understanding of who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Whether we believe it or not, the truth is, Jesus is supreme. Jesus Himself tells us in Matthew 28 “***All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth***”.

SUPREMACY OF JESUS IN OUR LIFE

How then will we know if indeed Jesus is supreme in our lives? The letter of the Apostle Paul to the Colossians can help us because it speaks about the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Paul began by identifying right belief (Chapters 1-2) which led to a description of right behavior (Chapters 3-4).

1. Are you prayerful?

The Apostle Paul greets the believers in Colosseae, ***grace and peace from God our Father***. (v2) This is a reminder that we cannot have peace in God until we have received the grace of God. Because without the grace of God we are still lost and separate from God. He continues in verse 3 to remind us that we have to constantly pray. This is one trait that shows that God is supreme in our life. We are constantly praying, not only during times of trouble but every day. ***Prayer is recognizing our helplessness and acknowledging God's supremacy in our lives***. (Peter Tan Chi) Prayer is not for God. Prayer is really for us. When we come to God in prayer, we are merely admitting our helplessness and our dependency of God.

2. Is your faith anchored in Jesus Christ?

Verse 3-4 says ***We give thanks to God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints***. Faith is a choice. It is a choice we consciously make. But faith should be anchored on something. Our Christian faith should be anchored IN Jesus Christ.

3. Do you know how to love?

This is another test of the supremacy of Jesus Christ then you will be loving, not only to the believers but to everyone. If Jesus Christ is supreme in your life then you will obey His command in John 13:34-35 ***A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another***. It is our experience of His unconditional love that compels us to forgive and to love others, even those who have hurt us.

4. Do you have hope?

Verse 5 says ***because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel***. Our hope lies in the promises of the bible. Our hope is real because it is validated in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrected life is

promised by the Resurrected Christ. But we should live out that resurrected life. We should live a victorious life putting our trust in the faithfulness of our loving God. Our hope should lie on the gospel which was shared to us by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:3-7. Someone who has the supremacy of God in his life has this hope, Titus 1:2 says ***in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.***

5. Are you bearing fruit?

Verse 6 says ***which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth.*** This simply remind us that if Christ is supreme in your life then you need to bear fruit. We have to constantly and increasingly bearing fruit. If Christ is supreme in our life, then the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control (Gal 5:22-23) should be constantly increasing in our life. So the question is: Do you have these fruits in your life? Are they constantly present in my life? Are they increasing in their manifestation in my life?

We are encouraged to ***walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*** The knowledge of the will of God is not just for information, it is for transformation. Our lives should manifest the presence, grace and the supremacy of Christ in our life. We have to live out our salvation moment by moment, day by day.

6. Do you have Joy?

Verse 11 says ***strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfast and patience joyously.*** The expectation is that as we are strengthened as we draw on the glorious might of God, we will remain steadfast, immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord and with the understanding and the patience because God's timing is not the same as ours. But we are confident in His faithfulness and presence in our life, we can continue to be joyful in the midst of whatever it is that is happening in our lives.

The presence and the pursuit of these six evidences – prayer, faith, love, hope, fruit and joy – in our being and doing determine how supreme Jesus is in our lives. Only when we know God's will and live out God's power to do His will can we truly realize the supremacy of Christ in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Is Jesus supreme in your life? What is holding you back from giving the control over to God?
2. Among the 6, which is the strongest evidence that Christ is supreme in your life? What is the weakest evidence?
3. What are some things you can begin to do so that people will see the supremacy of Christ in your life?