

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

1) Verses 15-20 feature one of the first Christian hymns ever documented. What things does it say about Jesus? Which one sticks out the most to you and why?

3) Most kings brought their people peace by shedding their enemies' blood. How did Jesus bring peace (v20)? How do we resort to bring peace - through force or sacrifice? 2) If Christ is the "firstborn" of creation, does that mean he was created? If no, then what does this verse mean?

4) Verses 21-23 talk about growing in faith. How do you prioritize growing in your faith? How has your life changed since becoming a Christian?