

Colossians 1:15-23.

Christ, Creator & Redeemer.

If someone asked you to 'describe God', what could you say about Him? Could you talk about His physical appearance, or just His attributes?

Read Colossians 1:15-20

1. Sometimes, people will say "he's got his father's eyes", or "his mother's nose". When we look at Jesus, whose likeness do we see (15)?
2. Given that the Father is not a man (Numbers 23:19, John 4:24), in what sense could the Son be the 'image of the invisible God' (v. 16-20)?
3. If someone asked you, "who created the world", what would you usually say? Is that the same or different to what Paul says in verse 16?
4. If someone asked you, "what's the *point* of God's creation?", what would you normally say? How might verse 16 help to answer that question?
5. The "Jesus nut" holds the rotors on a helicopter, effectively supporting the weight of the whole aircraft. Without it, everything goes South *very* quickly. Do you think that's an appropriate name for such an important part? How could the end of verse 17 factor into your argument?

6. Looking at verses 19-20, is it fair to say that reconciliation with God was something that Jesus did on His own, without reference to the Father?

7. How might a Trinitarian theology of God¹ help to explain these verses?

Read Colossians 1:21-23

8. What was our relationship with God like, outside of Jesus (21)?
9. What has God done about the situation (20, 22)?
10. What is the condition Paul puts on our reconciliation in verse 23?
11. Does that mean that we don't have reconciliation yet (22)?

Give thanks and pray.

What can we learn about God, if it is true that Jesus is his "exact image" (Col. 1:15, Heb. 1:3)? Thank God for His attributes expressed in Jesus.

Thank God for the action that He has taken in Christ, for us, and pray that we might remain faithful always.

¹ You can find the Athanasian Creed on page 625 of the Prayer Book.