

Colossians 1.15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And 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, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

1. The Image

- Jesus rules over ALL creation, not just Colossae.
- Jesus is God's appointed '*Lord*' over creation past, present and future.
- ALL powers and authorities are at best, given by Jesus and at worst, cheap imitations of the real McCoy!

2. The Body

“The risen Jesus in heaven is the presence, in God’s sphere, of the first part of ‘earth’ to be transformed into ‘new creation’ in which heaven and Earth are joined; the pouring out of the spirit on earth is the presence, in our sphere, of the sheer energy of heaven itself...Because he is Lord of all, his energy, the power to be and do something quite new, is available through the spirit to all who call on him, all who follow him, all who trust him.” (*Tom Wright*)

2. The Body

- “He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, *the firstborn from the dead*, that in everything he might be supreme.” **(Colossians 1.18)**
- “the immeasurable greatness of *his power towards us* who believe, according to the working of his great might *that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead*” **(Ephesians 1.19-20)**
- “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, *according to the power at work within us*” **(Ephesians 3.20-21)**

2. The Body

- You have authority *in him*
- You get to rule *with* and *for him*
- You get to *be him* in your city

But what will that look like *for you* in Derby
in the Twenty-first century?

Jubilee
ChurchDerby

3. Re-Imagining Your World

- “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace *by the blood of his cross*” (Colossians 1.19-20)

3. Re-Imagining Your World

- Is your life, your worth as a person and your identity being shaped and defined by Jesus as the true image of God, or are you being shaped and defined as a person by *rival* images?



3. Re-Imagining Your World

- Do you see church as a radically alternative community tasked with filling Derby with the life of God, or do you see it as a 'Hotel' that you can conveniently use when it suits you and that you have no real responsibility for?

3. Re-Imagining Your World

- Is your faith producing in you an attitude that leads you to pour your life out for Derby, or are you more interested in sucking all that you can out of Derby?