

Identity in Christ

^ Cols 1:15-23

Who do you think you are - TV

Danny Dyer - East Enders

Discovered he is related to royalty
distantly

Naomi Harris - Actress

Descended from Slave owners

Jack Whitehall - comedian

descendent from conservatives
preventing working classes to vote

Christopher Eccleston - Actor

simply ordinary people
apparently not worth an episode

But who do you think ***you*** are?

Do you look at nationality, race,
class, gender

Do you look at what you have or
have not achieved?

What job you have

What money you earned or inherited

Collosians congregation

Mixed bag

Jews and Greek plus others

Slaves and slave owners

different classes of society

But one faith

Paul thanks God for their faith

And that they will grow stronger in
the knowledge of God

sharing the inheritance of the Father

So one Family

But this was not always the case

^ Cols 1:21

Once you were estranged and hostile
in mind

doing evil deeds

Now reconciled to God

^ v22

in "the body of Jesus's flesh"

presented holy, blameless and
irreproachable

Provided they stay in the Faith in Jesus Christ

^ v23

Who is Jesus?

Paul just wanted to remind them
in an interlude who Jesus is

He does this probably using a well
known him at the time

"He is the image of the invisible God"

If you read this passage, you
cannot escape the words all, all
things or everything

Jesus is the firstborn of **all** creation

^ v15

in Jesus **all** things in heaven and on
earth were created

^ v16a

all things have been created through
Jesus

^ v16c

Jesus is before **all** things

^ v17a

in Jesus **all** things hold together

^ v17b

Jesus has first place in **everything**

^ v18c

in Jesus **all** the fullness of God dwells

^ v19

through Jesus, God was pleased to
reconcile himself to **all** things

^ v10

In addition

He is the image of the invisible God

Creation includes even those things
that we do not normally include or
things separate

Thrones, dominions, rules and powers

Some good, some evil

He is above these all

How?

By making peace through the blood of
the Cross

Not because he is the Son God

Part of God in the trinity

No because he died on the cross for us

For what?

Forgiveness of sins? - Yes

Healing of guilt and shame? - Yes

Healing of relationships? - Yes

All that is included in the words: God
was pleased to reconcile himself

By making peace

Peace and Reconciliation

All these things, forgiveness,
healing

All these come from God's
reconciliation and peace - shalom

It was not us that did this-
estranged, hostile and evil

It was Jesus on the cross that
breaks through our
estrangement, hostility and evil

Dutch saying: 'blood goes where
it cannot go'

Indication of our evil characters

It is in the blood'

It is who we are

But Jesus' blood also goes where
it cannot go

It also goes and comes into our hearts

It changes us from the inside

Communion: body and blood of Jesus

Symbol/rememberance of his death
on the cross

Symbol of taking him in us

And changing us from the inside

reconciling us to God

healing, forgiveness, redemption

We become children of God

We receive God's inheritance

As we believe and follow Jesus

His blood cleanses our hearts

Jesus is in all, before all, after all, behind all

He also wants to come in us all

He stands at the door and knocks

Are you letting him in

Will you receive God's
reconciliation through Jesus's his
blood

Come to me, he says,

Come

So, Who do you think **you** are?

A child of the living God

A brother/sister of Jesus

The image of the invisible God

That is who we are

Not our parents, our country, our
nationality, our job, our ministry,
our gender, our age,

or whatever else

We are children of the Living God

We are one in him

We are his body here in his world

Called to work in his Kingdom, by
his power

To him be the Glory, now and
forever - Amen

Let's celebrate that by joining Jesus Christ at his table