

GOD AND MY CLASSES (PART 1)



HEAR

Read Colossians 1:13–20

- What are some repeated words?
- What are contrasting words used?
- List out the things that have been created in the Son
- How are all things created?

Context & Key Themes

The "Split Life" problem is the temptation to cut our lives into pieces, serving God in our religious practices while serving the idols of the world in our public social responsibilities. We often use "two sets of glasses": one for our personal faith and another for the "public" world of money, voting, and academic studies.

But in this text, it's clear that Jesus came to rescue us from the dominion of darkness and transfer us into His Kingdom. He refuses to give even one piece of creation away—He is Lord of all things, including all of the things we're studying in our classes.

- If Jesus created and currently sustains "all things" (vs 15-17)—including the laws of physics, the complexities of human psychology, and the structures of business—how does that challenge the idea that our studies are "secular" or separate from God's agenda?
- If Jesus is before all things and holds all things together, then he is present by his Spirit in and through all things. What do you see in your field of study (or your favorite class) that reflects God's goodness? What do you see in your field of study is broken or is contrary to God's good intentions for creation?
- Since Christ is in the business of "reconciling all things" (v 20), what would it look like for you to act as an "ambassador" or "steward" within your area of study? How does seeing your major as a place for Kingdom service change your motivation for getting good grades or choosing a career path?



Go and do

The "Two Glasses Inventory"

On a piece of paper, draw two circles representing your "Sacred" life (church, prayer, small group) and your "Secular" life (major, classes, career goals).

- List the values or "rules" that guide each circle. Where are the two sets of rules in alignment? Where are they different? Where they are different, why are they different?
- Consider the rules around your "secular" circle. How do they align with Jesus being before all things in this circle and lord over all things in this circle? In light of this, is Jesus inviting you to change any of your rules around this circle?
- Reflect: Do you pray about your relationships but never your studies? Do you pursue growth in Scripture but never seek "faith integration" in your specific field? Ask God to help you to bring all your circles of life under Christ's lordship into one life of integrity.



Reflect on what you learned

- Are there any ways you felt God inviting you to integrate your "secular" and "sacred" lives more in the last week? What has that felt like? What did you notice?
- Are there any actions steps you've taken in response?