

Is it not amazing what some people can do w/ their hands?

The human hand is an amazing device. W/ our hands we can perform the simplest and most amazing tasks imaginable. We can write, speak, create, love, and discipline w/ these amazingly complex extremities.

Did you know there are 27 bones, 29 joints, 123 ligaments, 48 nerves, 30 arteries, and 34 muscles in the human hand – and yet there are no muscles in your fingers – but a unique system of levers called tendons motivated by muscles in your palms/forearms? Our hands are one complex device.

Did you know that the underside of your hand can't get a tan and that men tend to have ring fingers longer than their index fingers while women tend to have index fingers longer than their ring fingers?

Speaking of fingers – not only does every person have their own unique fingerprint identity completely distinctive from every other person – but your fingers, due to a large number of unique receptors, are one of the most sensitive parts of the body constantly sending enormous amounts of sensory information to the brain – where $\frac{1}{4}$ of your motor cortex in the brain is dedicated to operating your hands. **AMAZING!**

And then there are our *opposable* thumbs – which provide us w/ unbelievable abilities few other animals possess. They're **opposable** b/c the **thumb** can be moved around to touch the other fingers giving us the ability to grasp things. Our thumbs are one of the great gifts God has given to us – w/out our thumbs we couldn't hitchhike, say "ok", turn doorknobs, give people a thumbs up, a call a batter out – along w/ a host of other things. Maybe this is why Sir Isaac Newton said:

In the absence of any other proof, the thumb alone would convince me of God's existence. *Isaac Newton*

Seriously, it's amazing (as we can see) what can be done by our hands. I wonder though..., have we ever considered what's been performed by the hands of God. The same hands that healed the sick and gave sight to the blind have achieved so much more than we can begin to imagine.

Over the next (2) weeks, I want to talk about *The Works of God's Hands* from Colossians 1. Let's start in vs. 14.

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:14-17

When Paul penned these words some 2000 yrs ago, he was combatting a heresy concerning the supremacy of Christ. The *Errorists* were denying the deity of Christ while the *Gnostics* were denying the humanity of Christ. The reason this truth is important is b/c Jesus needed to be both God and man. Man so He could atone for the 1st Adams mistakes and God so He could make a worthy, sinless atonement. So Paul is addressing the *theanthropic* nature of Christ – that is, Jesus was both 100% God/100% human at the same time.

Today I want to make the case that Jesus was 100% God b/c of His ability to create – for only God alone can create.

I Jesus is the AUTHORITY over Creation

*The Son is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation...*

image (*eikon*) exact representation or likeness – refers to an engraving tool or stamp – when you see Jesus you see God.

Idea: Just as light from the sun reflects the sun – so too does Jesus reflect the exact personhood of God

firstborn (*prototokos*) refers to position or rank and not chronology. It's a reference of supremacy/authority.

Wuest says the Greek infers (2) things: Priority to creation and sovereignty over all of it. Meaning at no time should one conclude Jesus was a created being, but that he was before creation w/ sovereign authority over it.

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in many ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word... Hebrews 1:2-3

As the physical representation of the Godhead, all creation derives its existence, sustenance, and purpose in Christ alone – who is God's authority over the universe.

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. Psalm 24:1-2

II Jesus is the AGENT of Creation

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. (Note the 3 phrases)

A IN Him (*en*)

Creation occurred from w/in Jesus' person/power meaning all of creation comes as a result of His ministry.

All things came into being by Him, apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. John 1:3

made (*ginomai*) was fashioned into existence.

Psalmist— just as we were knit together in our mother's womb by God, so too was all the universe fashioned and brought into being as a result of the work of Jesus' hands.

nothing – not one thing. Everything we can see, touch, hear, feel, and taste finds its origin in the creative genius of Christ.

B THROUGH Him (*di*)

through whom also He made the world – Christ is the originating center and mediating agent of creation.

Through him all things were made; w/out him nothing was made that has been made. John 1:4

world (*aionas*) it doesn't refer to the material world but "the ages," meaning Jesus is responsible not only for the physical earth but for creating time, space, energy, and matter.

- The sun is 8,655,000 miles in diameter and is 93 mil. miles from the earth. If it were any closer we'd burn and any farther we'd freeze. The sun is so large you could put 1.2 mil. earths inside it and still have room for 4.3 mil. moons.
- Light travels at 186,000 miles/sec. A beam of light reaches the moon in 1.5 seconds. If we could travel at that speed, it'd take 2 min/18 sec to reach Venus, 4.5 min. to reach Mercury, 1 hr/11 sec. to reach Saturn, and nearly 4 hrs to reach Pluto - and still we'd be well inside our solar system.
- The North Star is 400 trillion miles away but is still nearby in relation even to known space. The star Betelgeuse is 880 quadrillion miles (880^{15}) from us. It has a diameter of 250 mil. miles, which is greater than the earth's orbit.

Where did it all come from? Who conceived it? Who made it? It can't be an accident. Somebody had to make it, and the Bible tells us the maker was Jesus Christ. *MacArthur*

Sir John C. Eccles, Nobel Laureate in neurophysiology, said the odds against the right combination of circumstances occurring to have evolved intelligent life on earth are highly improbable – inferring the evolution of substance starting from nothing is nothing short of miraculous – but to happen over and over throughout our universe and beyond exceeds improbable, but impossible – w/out an intelligent designer.

If there's not a Creator, then we have a problem clarifying how our complex immeasurable universe came to be.

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of His hands. Psalm 19:1

C FOR Him (*eis*)

Everything that has been created was not only by Jesus, but for His glory and goodness. Christ is the end for which all things exist and have their being.

III Jesus is the ADHESION of Creation

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Christ is more than the author of life and creation; He and no other (*autos*) is the eternal sustainer of it. He only has to w/draw His hand and it'd collapse – sovereign jurisdiction.

hold together (*sunestimei*) to stick together; Jesus is the super glue of all matter and the duct tape of the Universe.

Share Louis Giglio's story about Laminin.

The hands of God – not only by His hands have we been created – but it is by His hands that He sustains and holds all things together.