

Protecting Your Identity in Christ

Colossians 2:8-15

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. Colossians 2:8-10 (New International Version)

Fullness = *pleroo* = full to the brim = complete

Verses 11-15 give **three aspects of believers' completeness** in Christ.

- **BELIEVERS HAVE A COMPLETE SALVATION.**

In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. Colossians 2:11-12 (NIV)

- The object of spiritual circumcision was to render inoperative the old sinful nature in a believer's life.

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— Romans 6:6 (NIV)

For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. Romans 7:22-23 (NIV)

- Baptism is a picture of a believer's union with Christ and of the transformation that takes place because of that union.

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:3-4 (NIV)

- **BELIEVERS HAVE COMPLETE FORGIVENESS.**

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13-14 (English Standard Version)

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power ¹⁰on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed . . . 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 (NIV)

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴But with you there is forgiveness . . . Psalm 130:3-4 (NIV)

“. . . everyone who believes in him [Jesus] receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” Acts 10:43 (NIV)

“Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.” Acts 13:38 (NIV)

Three Truths About God's Forgiveness

- It's never earned; it's only graciously given by God.

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy . . . Titus 3:4-5 (NIV)

- It's never partial; it's always complete.

. . . where sin increased, grace increased all the more . . . Romans 5:20b (NIV)

- It's never at risk; it's always certain.

“Record of debt” = *cheirographon* = note of indebtedness

- **BELIEVERS HAVE COMPLETE VICTORY.**

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:15 (NIV)

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3:8b (NIV)