

Text: Col. 2:9–10 “For ***in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form***, and ***you have been given fullness in Christ***, who is the head over every power and authority.”

Intro: Because Jesus is “***the fullness of the Deity...in bodily form***” (2:9) You have been “***reconciled...by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight***,” (1:22). Because of who Jesus is, fully God and fully human (v. 9), the believer shares in that fullness (v. 10) “***you have been given fullness in Christ***.”

—***In Jesus every spiritual need is met.***

—There is no need to turn anything but Jesus for fullness of life.

—In His fullness, He “***is the head over every power and authority***.” (Col. 2:10)

—Whatever powers exists in the universe, whatever ranks and orders of authority and government, they all owe their being to Christ and are under His lordship.

—How does Jesus give us this fullness?

—1) Jesus first cuts away the old flesh/self—Col. 2:11 “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,”

—Circumcision was the Old Testament physical symbol of the Covenant—Gen. 17:11 “You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.”

—But physical ***circumcision was prophetic***, it looked forward to the day when spiritual circumcision would be the reality.

—God stated the day would come when the fleshly, sinful nature would be cut away—Deut. 30:6 “The LORD your God ***will*** circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, ***so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.***”

—In Christ that time is now, the old sinful nature is “***cut away***”; as long as our hearts are filled with the fleshly nature, ***we will not love God with all our hearts and soul.***

—That is God’s greatest desire for us—**Deut. 6:5** “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

—**Rom. 2:29** “...circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.”

—2) **Col. 2:12** “having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.”

—Read **Rom 6:1-11** for Paul’s full discussion of this principle; by faith we fully identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

—**Rom. 6:11** “In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

—The word “count” (λογίζομαι logizomai) means that you set it down as a matter or absolute record (2+2=4); you have died to sin and are alive to God.

—This is where the believer engages, you have to acknowledge what Jesus did for you; we embrace the new identity we are given in Christ.

—**Paul sums it all up**; by faith we identify with Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection—**Col. 2:13** “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.”

—Before we encountered Jesus, we were literally “dead in our sins” and still trapped in the “uncircumcision of your sinful nature”; we had no fellowship with God—**Eph. 2:12** “remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.”

—God’s answer to our position is the Cross

—In *v. 14* the law was nailed to the Cross—*Col. 2:14* “having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.”

—The requirement of the Law was fulfilled when Jesus was nailed to the Cross—it is important to understand that Paul does not mean Jesus completely destroyed the Law.

—*Matt. 5:17* “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

—What Jesus “*cancelled*” is the regulations of Law against those who believe on Him for salvation.

—He did that by taking our sins to the Cross.

—*Col. 2:15* “And having *disarmed* the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

—The idea of the word “*disarmed*” refers to the robes of authority being removed and the public humiliation of the demonic power.

—John says *1John 3:8* “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”

—Those “*powers and authorities*” are under Jesus’ authority; but we respect their power—*1Pet. 5:8* “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

—We do not fear them—*1John 4:4* “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

—Paul reminds us of the reality of these powers—*Eph. 6:12* “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

—*Christ is the only authority*

—Don't allow yourself to be brought under any kind of external code—**Col. 2:16**
“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.”

—Don't worship angels or demonic beings—**Col. 2:18** “Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.”

—The principle goes back to the main truth—**Col. 2:20-21** “Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”?”

—The truth is all of these philosophies do not accomplish anything in peoples lives—**Col. 2:23** “Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.”

—The only principle that works is God's principle of circumcision of the heart.