



Deeper into God's Grace!

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It's Just Jesus.

Connected to Him.

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, 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 (**Colossians 2:11**)

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**)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (**Romans 6:23**)

Alive with Him.

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,” (**Colossians 2:13**)

...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” (**Psalms 103:12**)

Cleansed by Him.

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.” (**Col. 2:14–15**)

Roots: A Study in Colossians! Part Five: Deeper into Grace!

Ignore “Spiritual” Bullies.

Don’t Be Judged.

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. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.” (*Col. 2:16–17*)

Don’t Be Intimidated.

Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.” (*Col. 2:18–19*)

Don’t Keep Score.

Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. 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.” (*Col. 2:20–23*)

Bottom Line:

It’s Just Jesus, Period!

1. Were you ever bullied as a kid? How did it affect you? Did you ever bully someone? Do you remember why you did it?

2. **Read Col. 2:11-15:** What stands out to you in these verses? What does Paul mean when he uses circumcision and baptism in this passage? What does it mean to be circumcised by Christ?

3. How many of our sins did Jesus forgive? Are those just our past sins, what about our future sins? If you are comfortable, share some of the charges or sins that could be brought against you that have been forgiven.

4. **Read Col. 2:16-17:** What were people being judged by others about? What was their point? In what ways were these things a “shadow of Christ”?

What are some ways people judge in the church today? What are some of the rules some churches may have? Is it wrong to have some rules in your life? When is it wrong to have rules?

6. **Read Col. 2:18-19:** What are these verses referring to? Have you ever felt intimidated by someone who thought they were more spiritual than you because of some spiritual experience? How did you respond?

7. **Read Col. 2:20-23:** What rules were people told they had to follow? What rules do we sometimes try to get others to follow that may not be from God but sound very spiritual?

9. Is there any way that churches today seek to spiritually bully others? How can we avoid it as a church and as individuals?

10. The key is Jesus. If we trust him, we have all we need, and he has done everything that needs to be done. Pray that we simply focus on Jesus.