

Did You Know That You've Been Freed From Your Evil Twin?

Ricardo Campos, Teaching Elder Grace Chapel, Orange, CA March 14, 2010

Review:

Col. 1:1–14, Paul and Timothy thank God for the Colossians' fruitful walk. Thus, they pray that God will grant them further understanding of His will so that their walk will reach new heights as they thank God for delivering them from the power of darkness.

Col. 1:15–29, Christ, the Creator and sustainer of the entire universe, reconciled believers to God through His death in order to one day see them stand holy before Him as His Body. However, they must stay grounded in Him so that they will indeed bring glory to His Body.

Col. 2:1–10, Paul wants the Colossians to remain rooted in Christ and not be captivated by the world's empty philosophy because everything they need, they already have in Christ, the Possessor of all wisdom and knowledge.

I. Introduction

Believers have been permanently united with Christ, the God of the universe. When this happened they were plucked from the world's body of sins and placed into the Body of Christ. This freed them from the world's deadly philosophy which once ruled them. In light of this, they should not go back and submit to man's futile philosophy.

II. Meet Your Siamese Twin: Christ (Col. 2:11–15)

In 1:4, Paul mentioned that the Colossians are "in Christ." Their job is to remain there if they want to attain the holy state Christ died to achieve, 1:21-23. Though the world's philosophy seeks to take them captive once again, back to the unholy state where they once lived, 3:7, Paul reminds them that the holy state they're looking for is found in Christ, 2:10.

Thus, Paul elaborates with great detail just how "in Christ" the Colossians really are. They are forever connected to the source of holiness, forever united to the God of the universe, who stripped them of the world's body of sin and freed them of its dominant dogma that once held them captive (3:7), 2:11-15.

Therefore, the world's philosophy on life and spirituality is supposed to be dead to them, especially since Christ killed it on the cross, 2:14. In light of this, how should we see a Dear Abby column, horoscope, or the latest how-to book that the world produces? We should ask, "Is this advice according to Christ or the world?"

III. Since Your Siamese Twin Freed You from Your Evil Twin, Why Would You Even Consider Hanging out With Him Again? (Col. 2:16–23)

Since Christ stripped the Colossians of their former position in the world, which freed them from the world's philosophy on spirituality, they should not let anyone judge them concerning any religious practice. Why? Because these things (e.g., feasts like the Passover in the Old Testament) are mere shadows of Christ. To chase them is to chase after a shadow and not the real thing.

Therefore, the Colossians are to beware that no one disqualify them from receiving their reward (1:12) with a religious practice that conceived by man's fleshly mind because this is not grounded in Christ, the true source of holiness (2:10) and growth for the Colossians.

Since the Colossians have died to the world's empty dogma, they should not subject themselves to its do's and don'ts, which promise success against the flesh, but are actually of no value.

IV. CONCLUSION

The world's philosophy on life and spirituality (its dogma) is conceived by man's arrogant and fleshly mind. Though believers once lived by this dogma, they've been freed and are now united with the God of creation: Christ. Since this is true and they are now "in Christ" instead of "in the world," they should not fall prey to a philosophy that promises deliverance, but is in fact empty deceit (2:8).