

THE PREMINENCE OF CHRIST

Lesson 7: Freedom from Sin and Legalism

Colossians 2:11–17

- I. **Freedom from sin:** Christ's death on our behalf frees us from the power and the penalty of sin (*Colossians 2:11–15*).
 - A. Christ has freed us from the old life by setting us free from the old sin nature (*Colossians 2:11*).
 - 1. Jewish converts sought to impose Older Testament standards such as circumcision upon newly converted Gentiles.
 - 2. The Lord never intended circumcision to be a means to life with Him but rather a symbol of a covenant relationship (*see Genesis 17:10–11*).
 - 3. The circumcision of the new covenant is a spiritual reality that frees us from the domination of the indwelling sin nature.
 - B. Christ has identified us fully with His death, burial, and resurrection so that we might experience all the life He has for us (*Colossians 2:12–13*).
 - 1. Apart from Christ, we were separated from God and powerless over our sinful natures (*Colossians 2:12a*).
 - 2. Christ has provided life and forgiveness through His death, burial and resurrection (*Colossians 2:12b–13*).
 - C. Christ dealt with all the guilt of all our sins by dying on the cross (*Colossians 2:14*).
 - D. Christ defeated Satan's forces and demonstrated their weakness by His resurrection and ascension (*Colossians 2:15*).
- II. **Freedom from legalism:** Legalism focuses on “dos and don'ts” rather than on a relationship with Christ (*Colossians 2:16–17*).
 - A. The legalist seeks to regulate one's behavior by promoting certain activities and limiting others (*Colossians 2:16*).
 - B. Even legitimate Older Testament practices pointed toward Christ, Who completely fulfills and expresses the reality of God's character (*Colossians 2:17*).

Next week: Colossians 2:18–23