

We Died With Christ to the Hostile Powers

Colossians 2:20, 21

05/10/15
by Bob DeWaay

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Gospel of Grace Fellowship

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You Died With Christ

Colossians 2:20a (NET)

If you have **died with Christ** to the **elemental spirits** of the world . . .

- This is a first class conditional in the Greek: “if as is the case”
- “elemental spirits” is *stoicheia* in the Greek
- It says literally “died from”
- We are no longer under the hostile powers when we are in Christ

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“Stoicheia” Range of Meanings

Colossians 2:8d (ESV)

according to the **elemental spirits** of the world

- The “A, B, C’s” of Religion (Hebrews 5:12)
- The physical elements (2Peter 3:10, 12)
- Hostile spiritual beings associated with the cosmic elements (Galatians 4:3, 9; Colossians 2:8, 20)
- Here in Colossians it is the spirit beings under discussion

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Why Are You Dogmatized?

Colossians 2:20b (NET)

why do you **submit** to them as though you lived in the world?

- “Living in the world” implies “under the *stoicheia* of the world”
- “Submit to” is *dogmatizo* which means “to be dogmatized”
- Dogmatize means “to proclaim as an edit”
- **The dead don’t need religious dogma** and it does not apply!

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Man-Made Religious Rules

Colossians 2:21 (NET)

“Do not handle! Do not taste! **Do not touch!**”

- “Do not touch” could echo Genesis 3:3
- These rules came from the *stoicheia* (Col. 2:8)
- Paul may be using sarcasm

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Implications and Applications

- We need to believe we died with Christ
- Do not be dogmatized by human law-givers
- Evil spirits teach strict laws

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We Died With Christ

Romans 6:8 (NASB)

Now **if we have died with Christ**, we believe that **we shall also live with Him**,

2Timothy 2:11 (NASB)

It is a trustworthy statement: For **if we died with Him**, we **will also live with Him**;

- These are both first class conditionals (as is the case)
- Those who turn to Christ through the gospel are alive because His death is considered their death

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Do Not Be Dogmatized

James 4:11, 12 (NASB)

Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, **speaks against the law and judges the law**; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. **There is only one Lawgiver** and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

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Hostile Spiritual Powers Make False Decrees

1Timothy 4:1-3 (NASB)

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and **doctrines of demons**, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who **forbid marriage** and advocate **abstaining from foods** which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

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Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ

1Timothy 1:15, 16 (NASB)

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for **those who would believe in Him for eternal life**.

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Since We Died With Christ We Are to Live for Christ

2Corinthians 5:15 (HCSB)

And **He died for all** so that those who live **should no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for them** and was raised.

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Sermon Study Discussion Questions

1. What are some implications of the truth that believers have died with Christ?
2. The Bible says that unbiblical decrees come from spiritual and human sources. Why is this such a consistent problem and why do people listen to these decrees?
3. Why should we restrain from making ourselves lawgivers and why should we refuse to listen to those who do?

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