

Colossians 2:11–15

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Circumcision in the OT was a sign of the covenant relationship between God and His people. Something was removed that indicated a separation from one thing but also and inclusion in another. In the same way we are separated from one thing and included in another. We are now, in Christ, separated from our old life, our old identity and our old nature. Those things have been cut off... our flesh has been cut off.

We have been given a spiritual circumcision by Jesus where our flesh has been removed and we have been consecrated to God - God has called us His covenant people - the promises of God now belong to us. We are consecrated because we are separated from our old flesh and it's power over us. There isn't an internal power struggle going on inside of us where our fleshly desires are battling against our Holy Spirit desires. The battle has been won and it is finished. We have been crucified with Christ and our new life comes from Christ in us.

Galatians 5:24

²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

How have we been "circumcised" - by our union with Christ that came through a spiritual death and resurrection -

Galatians 2:19–20

¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 6:3–11

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Because we are in Christ we have been through the journey of crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection. Being baptised in Christ means that we have been immersed into Christ. We can sometimes only think about baptism in its physical sense of the act of going under water and coming up again. We all know

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that it is only representative but it's important to understand what the word means and what is actually represented in the act of water baptism.

When we are baptised we are baptised into the person of Jesus Christ; we are immersed into Christ. This is a spiritual union that has happened with you. Not only has Christ come to make His home within you by the Holy Spirit, but you also have made your home in Christ.

The circumcision of Christ is the cutting off of our flesh through Christ's death & resurrection and our immersion into Christ.

Being in Christ is what sets us apart.

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You were once dead and now you have been made alive in Christ. All your sins have been forgiven. Your debt against God was nailed to a cross 2,000 years ago! You were once dead because you were a sinner and your flesh was alive. Now that your sinful nature has been removed & you have received a new creation nature, and now that your flesh has been cut off, you are forgiven and alive. The debt has been wiped. You are no longer in a position of needing to pay anything back and you can never be in a position to pay anything back because everything that God owns He has given to you as an inheritance.

Romans 8

Galatians 5:23–25

²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

You are alive by the Spirit but you must also walk by the Spirit.

Romans 7:5–6

⁵ For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

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The rulers and authorities in the world have been disarmed, triumphed over and put to shame by Christ. We should have no fear towards the rulers and authorities in the spiritual realm. Ephesians 6 speaks of us being in a battle with these principalities and powers. What fear can there be in the battle? None, because Christ has been victorious.

Disarmed - all their weapons have been taken from them. The only weapons that they have access to are your weapons. When you hand your weapons over you provide weaponry for the enemy. You must guard your weapons of warfare.

Belt of truth - when we take off the belt of truth we allow lies to become our truth - lies open us up to guilt and shame - the belt of truth keeps your pants on. The truth of who we are in Christ protects us from the lies of the enemy who would call us less than who we are in Christ. When we believe the lies of the enemy we allow guilt and shame to reign over us. The Roman military belt had brass rods that covered the groin area. Truth protects our most intimate parts!

Breastplate of righteousness - your heart is guarded by where you stand with God. We are righteous because of Christ. When we walk in this truth we protect our identity. Our heart is protected because we know who we are in the depths of our being.

Shield of faith - the arrows never stop flying - it's deceptive warfare because satan shoots from a distance. The shield of faith extinguishes the flaming arrows of the enemy. It rarely happens that satan or his demons show up face to face with you. Most of us would probably get through the day without a demonic manifestation taking place before our eyes. The enemy is much more deceptive in that he uses arrows rather than a sword. He doesn't get too close because he knows that he will be slain by the sword that you carry. Our trust in God is what limits the advances of the enemy.

Gospel of peace - not a message of hatred or condemnation. When the gospel ceases to be about peace and to bring about peace then we are fashioning a weapon for the enemy to use against the body of Christ.

Helmet of salvation - We need to keep renewing our minds in order to walk in our salvation reality.

Sword of the Spirit - the word of God - knowing truth and knowing the Spirit of truth.

Satan is the father of lies. Satan is the father of your lies. He's not always the source but he's the one who raises them. He doesn't always give birth to them but he always raises them and nurtures them. He feeds them and keeps them alive. When we believe lies over truth then we help to raise his children. Our job is to kill satan's kids. To take captive and destroy the lies of the evil one. We are the ones that keep them alive. If we believe the lies of the enemy then we become their life support.

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The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and he will lead you into all truth.

John 14:15–17

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 15:26

²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

1 John 4:1–6

Test the Spirits

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

John 16:12–15

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

All authority has been given to Jesus. No authority has been given to anything or anyone else. Jesus is in us and we are in Him. We walk in authority because we walk in Christ. Therefore satan and demons have no authority apart from the authority that we give them.

Christ triumphed over the rulers and authorities. If you are in Christ then you have and you will triumph over the rulers and authorities in the spiritual realm.

Application:

- 1) Your flesh is dead - don't live by it but instead live by the Spirit
- How do we walk in the Spirit?
- Set you mind on the things of the Spirit - Romans 8

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- Listen to the Holy Spirit

- Galatians 5:22–25

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

How Do We Walk by the Spirit? - John Piper

The phrase "walk by the Spirit" occurs not only in verse 25 (of Galatians 5) but also in verse 16, "But I say, walk by the Spirit and do not gratify the desires of the flesh." So here we see what the opposite of walking by the Spirit is, namely, giving in to the desires of the flesh. Remember, "flesh" is the old, ordinary human nature that does not relish the things of God and prefers to get satisfaction from independence, power, prestige, and worldly pleasures. When we "walk by the Spirit," we are not controlled by those drives.

*This is what verse 17 means: the flesh produces one kind of desires, and the **Spirit produces** another kind, and **they are opposed to each other**. Walking by the Spirit is what we do when the desires produced by the Spirit are stronger than the desires produced by the flesh. This means that "walking by the Spirit" is not something we do in order to get the Spirit's help, but rather, just as the phrase implies, it is something we do by the enablement of the Spirit.*

It shouldn't be a case of us having overwhelming desires for fleshly things without a desire for Spirit things. The Spirit isn't neutral or passive. The Holy Spirit is actually producing desires in you that, if nurtured, will overcome your desire for fleshly actions, thoughts and attitudes.

2) You are completely forgiven - walk in complete forgiveness

3) Satan has no power over you apart from the power that you give over - guard your weapons