

What is the fullness of Christ?

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. **9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ,** who is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹

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, ¹² 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. ¹³ 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, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.** ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:8-15

The fullness of Christ can only be found in knowing what Jesus nailed to the cross for us.

1. Jesus nailed Sin to the Cross.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

2. Jesus nailed the Curse to the Cross.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Galatians 3:13-14

3. Jesus nailed Fear to the Cross.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Hebrews 2:14-15

4. Jesus nailed Death to the Cross.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since

Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. Romans 6:4, 8-9

5. Jesus nailed Hate, Separation, and Isolation to the Cross.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:13-18

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. ⁵² The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. Matthew 27:50-53

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:19-22

6. Jesus nailed Defeat, Faults and Failures to the Cross.

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Romans 3:21-22

7. Jesus nailed Satan's Power and Authority to the Cross.

Jesus disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them on the cross. Colossians 2:15

What does it mean to be filled with the fullness of Christ; to live our lives every day in the fullness of Christ?

It means:

- 1) Sin has been removed from us.
- 2) We are no longer cursed – we are blessed to be a blessing.
- 3) We do not live in fear – we live in complete assurance.
- 4) Death has no power over us – we live in hopeful expectation.
- 5) Hate, separation, and isolation have been banished from our lives – love, unity and fellowship fill our lives.
- 6) Defeat, faults, and failures are no longer our identity. Instead I can do all things in Christ. And there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ.
- 7) Satan's power and authority does not affect us because God's power and authority rules over my life.

It is imperative that we know the truth of God's Word - because what we believe about God is **defining and determining** how we are living our lives.