



Lesson 6

Heart Circumcision *Colossians 2:6-3:4*

As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Summary

Being placed into Christ, our inner man, our heart, has been circumcised from the flesh by the Holy Spirit's application of the death and resurrection so that our spiritual inner life is from Christ in heaven on whom we set the gaze of our hearts by faith.

Deadly Errors in Transformation

The following table observes what Paul is engaged with as error faced by the church.

Answering the Errors

Verses	Myth	Truth
8-10	Gnosticism Christ is less than God and not truly human because the flesh, the body is inherently evil so we must transcend the body to be holy.	Christ, as fully human, is God in the flesh in a human body uncorrupted by sin in Himself or His body.
11-17	Legalism One must live by the rules and regulations of the Old Covenant to be holy under the New Covenant.	The work of the cross grants forgiveness, pays the debt and cuts us free from sin and the Old Covenant leaving us liberty in righteousness
18-19	Mysticism One can only be holy by direct access to God through personal revelations by angelic visitations or visions.	Holiness is a result of being in Christ, the head of the body and holding fast to Christ and our identity in Him.
20-23	Asceticism One can be only holy by denying and abusing the body because it is inherently evil.	We live outwardly holy because we have been crucified with Christ so that we live in the body but are not its slaves, but its masters.

Analyzing the Errors

Notice that every myth makes the following theological error.

The body/world/flesh is inherently e v i l.

The body is the s o u r c e of my sin and ungodliness.



What Christ has done for us may be s u f f i c i e n t for our redemption, but not for our transformation.

The errors are focused on the e x t e r n a l.

The errors deny the centrality of C h r i s t for our personal and practical holiness.

The Importance of Christ's Centrality **(v.1-7)**

Paul highlights the centrality of Christ for the Christian life and walk.

In His C o n c e r n **(v.1-3)**

To grow together in their k n o w l e d g e of Christ (v.1-2)

To affirm together the c e n t r a l i t y of Christ (v.3).

In His P u r p o s e **(v.4-5)**

To r e s i s t false teaching and intellectual persuasion (v.4)

To c o m m e n d them for holding the line (v.5)

In His C o m m a n d **(v.6-7)**

Its s t a n d a r d of grace through faith

Its s p h e r e in all of life

Its s c o p e in Person and doctrine

Its s o u r c e in the apostolic teaching

Its s t i m u l a t i o n in grace based gratitude

The wisdom of God in Christ stands as the Christians treasure, teaching and transforming wisdom. We turn away to the seductive and persuasive systems of human wisdom to our ruin. We will be despoiled of that which is our only hope and help, that we believe, trust, embrace and walk in Christ.



The I n s t r u c t i o n in Christ's Centrality (v.8-15)

Our R e s p o n s i b i l i t i e s in Christ (v.8)

To not be e n s n a r e d by false wisdom

To recognize the s o u r c e of error

To affirm the s t a n d a r d for truth

Our F u l l n e s s in Christ (v.9-10)

All of G o d is in Christ bodily

All b e l i e v e r s are indwelt by God in Christ

Our C i r c u m c i s i o n in Christ (v.11-12)

Its Spiritual E f f e c t (v.11)

Before our conversion, our outer man and our inner man were intertwined so that we were sinful in our persons and in our deeds.

When we were saved, the Holy Spirit "circumcised" us; that is, He cut our inner man, our heart away from the flesh/world/old man/the outer man.

Its Spiritual C a u s e (v.12)

This circumcision is caused by our union with Christ by the Holy Spirit into the death and resurrection of Christ.

Our R e s u r r e c t i o n in Christ (v.13-15)

Granted us new life raising us out of spiritual deadness.

Forgiven of our trespasses freeing us from guilt.

Canceled the debt incurred by the legal demands of the Law.

Disarmed spiritual enemies empowering victory over them.

The I m p e r a t i v e s from Christ's Centrality (v.16-3:3)

Do not try to live by the O l d C o v e n a n t. (V.16-19)

Do not allow others to j u d g e you (v.16-17)



Do not allow others to d i s q u a l i f y you (v.18-19)

We must hold fast to Christ from whom all of us receive our nourishment and strength (v.19).

Do not try to live by h u m a n r e g u l a t i o n s.
(v.20-23)

Rules living is from the world to which you have d i e d.

Rules living is u s e l e s s against the indulgences of the flesh.

Do live by faith in the truths of the g o s p e l.
(3:1-4)

S e e k things above where Christ is (v.1)

S e t your minds on things above (v.2-3)

Patiently p e r s e v e r e until Christ comes (v.4)

Lessons for Living

Recognize the common s u b s t i t u t e s for Biblical Christian living.

Affirm that these common substitutes are N O T viable alternatives and are dangerous to our souls.

Seek to live the Christian life by f a i t h, believing all that the Scriptures tells us is true of Christ and of us in our union to Him.

Your inner man, your heart, has been cut free from the flesh, the world, through your union with Christ and your being placed into His death and resurrection.

You must respond to these truths through all the imperatives Paul writes – we are actively responding to these truths.