



Positionally Dead AND Alive in the Colossian Epistle

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 2: 8, 14, 16, 20-23

Our position “IN CHRIST” makes up half of our salvation: “me in you/you in me”
- *Jn 14:20*

Paul taught positional living “everywhere, in every church” - *1 Cor 4:17*

Peter acknowledged that Paul wrote some “things difficult to be understood” //
Pet 3:15-16

Positional truth cannot be detected by the 5 senses of our soul, but are known by our human spirit, where salvation has taken place: “flesh is born of flesh, but spirit is born of the Spirit” - *Jn 3:6*

“But we have (a quality) of the mind of Christ”, so that “we can know all things graciously given by God” – *1 Cor 2:16, 1 Cor 2:12*

Romans 6 = positionally dead and alive with Christ




Ephesians 4 = positionally have put off the Old Man and have put on the New Man



Colossians 3 = positionally dead and alive and are to put off the behavior of the Old Man and to put on behavior of the New Man


Dead with Christ from the Elements of the World (System)

- 1. **Elements of the world system** = material goods, commerce, food production (worldly education, religion, entertainment (music, art, theater, sports, etc) Col 2:20-23
- 2. **Satan is the designer, engineer, and director of the world system** - Jn 12: 31, 14:30, 16:11
- 3. **The purpose of the world system:**
 - *To direct the sin nature in ways acceptable to society*
 - *To misdirect the attention of believers from “things above, not the things on the earth” - Col 3:2, I Jn 2:15*



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- 4. The believer's relationship to the world system
 - *We are to live in it, while here on earth*
 - Jn 17:15
 - *We are not out of it, as to our source*
 - Jn 17:16, cf Jn 3:7
 - *We can use the world system, but not “mis-use” i.e., it to its fulness*
 - I Cor 7:31



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- 5. Therefore, we are crucified to the world's control and the world's control over us is crucified
 - *Gal 6:14* “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world”



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- 6. The dogmatic restrictions of the world system that come from *man-made asceticism and religious legalism* – Col 2:20-22
 - Prohibitions from this asceticism & legalism -vs 21
 - These prohibited elements are destroyed (consumed) by their very use - vs 22a
 - These restrictions come from commandments and *didaskalia* from the men (ascetics, legalizers) vs 22:b, cf I Tim 4:1-4
 - The failure of false restrictions of the elements from the world system – vs 23

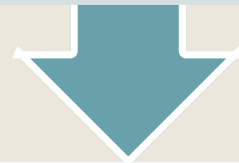
CONCLUSION

In Romans 6, we co-died to our sin nature



In Colossians 2:20 we died with Christ from the elements of the world system

We can use it in a limited way for God's glory (Phil 4:11-13)



Therefore, we can use the elements of the world system without:

Loving (desiring to improve) it

Being controlled by its influence