

Our Position and Power in Christ

Colossians 2:11-12

BGT ¹¹ Ἐν ᾧ καὶ περιετμήθητε περιτομῇ ἀχειροποιήτῳ ἐν τῇ ἀπεκδύσει τοῦ σώματος τῆς σαρκός, ἐν τῇ περιτομῇ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ¹² συνταφέντες αὐτῷ ἐν τῷ βαπτισμῷ, ἐν ᾧ καὶ συνηγέρθητε διὰ τῆς πίστεως τῆς ἐνεργείας τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἐγείραντος αὐτὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν·

NKJ ¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

I. Our Position (or Potential) of Holiness in Christ – The Power of Sin Has Been Broken For Us

¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism,

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A. The physical illustration in the OT – circumcision

1. An OT rite given to Abraham (Acts 7:8) to physically, permanently identify them as God's people
2. All Jewish males were circumcised on the 8th day after birth (Phil 3:5, then given a name)
3. "The circumcision" was a synonym for the Jews (Gal 2:7)
4. Circumcision was mistaken by some as a necessity for salvation (Acts 15:5; Rom 2:25-29)

Acts 15:5 *But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command [them] to keep the law of Moses."*

5. Circumcision clearly is not a requirement for salvation or sanctification

1 Cor 7:18 *Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised.*

Rom 3:30 *since [there is] one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.*

Rom 4:10-12 *How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which [he had while still] uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, and the father of circumcision to those who not only [are] of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham [had while still] uncircumcised.*

Gal 5:2-3 *Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.*

Gal 5:6 *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.*

Gal 6:15 *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.*

Col 3:11 *where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave [nor] free, but Christ [is] all and in all.*

B. The spiritual application in the NT – spiritual circumcision through identification with Christ

1. The Person – "in Whom..."
2. The act – have been circumcised (aor passive ind)
3. The difference – made *without* hands (Mark 14:58 – temple/3 days; 2 Cor 5:1 – eternal body)
4. The similarity – removal of the body of the flesh – sin removed; dealt with; the power broken

Rom 8:13 *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

5. The means – having been buried with Him "in the baptism" (aorist passive participle)

1 Cor 12:13 *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free -- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*

Rom 6:2-3

^{NAU} **Eph 5:30** *because we are members of His body.*

Col 1:21-22 *And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight*

6. The complementary conduct (in standing, but also in sanctification)

Phil 3:3 *For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,*

II. Our Power for Holiness in Christ – The Energy of the Resurrection Is Ours in Christ

in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

ἐν ᾧ καὶ συνηγέρθητε διὰ τῆς πίστεως τῆς ἐνεργείας τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἐγείραντος αὐτὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν·

A. The completion of our identification with Christ (raised)

Rom 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (see Rom 6:5-23)

B. The path of our identification with Christ (through faith)

C. The power of our identification with Christ (the same power of resurrection)

1. Energeia (1:29)

2. Power to Live Righteously

Rom 6:4-14 ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be [in the likeness] of [His] resurrection, ⁶knowing this, that our old man was crucified with [Him], that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰For [the death] that He died, He died to sin once for all; but [the life] that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Gal 2:19-20 ¹⁹For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the [life] which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Phil 3:7-14 ⁷But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which [is] from the law, but that which [is] through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

III. Is It Personal and Practical?

A. Have you become part of Christ's body by faith, having died with Him?

B. Have you reckoned yourself dead to sin?

C. Are you choosing to exercise the power that is yours in Christ to live righteously?

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