

Colossians 2:16-23 - Connected to the Head

Col 2:16-23 ESV Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but **the substance belongs to Christ. [KJV the body is of Christ]** 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism [KJV voluntary humility] and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and **not holding fast to the Head, [NIV] They have lost connection with the head [KJV not holding the Head]** from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. 20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— 21 "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Being Connected to the Head is set in the context of teaching about LEGALISM
BECAUSE WE ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST... ..He gives us the rest of this teaching

Legalism - is pursuing good works, rules, laws or methodologies to earn God's favor

- The use of rules or commandments as the way of salvation
 - Acts 15:1 "Unless you are circumcised ... you cannot be saved."
- Requiring submission to rules or standards as a measure of sanctification
 - Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch
 - Clothes, hair, makeup, recreation, entertainment
- Holding personal preferences to the level of biblical absolutes
 - TV, What kind of schooling you give your children, foods you eat

What Does Legalism Produce?

- vs 23 It has **no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh**
- **Judgemental spirit** - vs 16 "do not let anyone judge you" ... vs 18 "Let no one disqualify you"
- **Pushy** - vs 18 Insisting on asceticism
- **Pride** - vs 18 "they are puffed up without reason..."
- **IT IS NOT spiritual** - "... vs 18 by his sensuous mind [NIV] by their unspiritual mind"

Danger of Legalism

- vs 23 It has an appearance of wisdom
 - Gen 3:6 ESV the woman saw... that the tree was to be desired to make one wise
- vs 22 It is made up of human precepts and teachings - promoting self-made religion
- vs 21 Moves people to submit to the wrong things "why do you submit to regulations" vs 20
- Most Dangerous - vs 17 & 19 We forget that Christianity is about Jesus - the body is Christ - **lose connection with the HEAD**

Ultimately Legalism leaves us empty, tired, and defeated with a wrong view of Christianity

Christ is the Head

Col 1:18 NIV And he is **the head of the body, the church**;

Col 2:19 NIV **They have lost connection with the head, [ESV not holding fast to the Head]** from whom the whole body, **supported and held together [ESV nourished and knit together]** by its **ligaments and sinews**, grows as God causes it to grow.

The Growth God is Interested in does NOT come from legalism - but comes when we remain in Connection with the Head

1. The whole body is **supported / nourished**
2. The whole body is **held together / knit together** [ligaments and sinews]
3. The church grows as **God causes it to grow / increase**

What Does a Connected Member of the Body of Christ Look Like?

1) From the Head the Body is SUPPORTED / NOURISHED

- **Support** to furnish, to fully supply, to aid or contribute: - add, minister (nourishment, unto).
- To be a dance leader (choreographer)
- **The LORD is choreographing the church** - what is your part?

HOW? ... STIR UP YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

Eph 4:16 NIV From him the whole body, joined and held together by **every supporting ligament**, grows and builds itself up in love, **as each part does its work**.

Eph 4:16 ESV from whom the whole body, joined and **held together** by every joint **with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly**, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

1Pe 4:10-11 ESV **As each has received a gift**, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Col 4:17 ESV And say to Archippus, "See that you **fulfill the ministry that you have received** in the Lord."

2Ti 1:6 ESV For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame [KJV stir up] the gift of God**, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,

2) From the Head the Body is HELD TOGETHER / KNIT Together

Sinews - to drive together, that is, unite

HOW SINEWS ARE THE RELATIONAL BRIDGES THAT BIND US TOGETHER

[work through conflict and offenses - allow nothing to destroy the bond He - the HEAD, wants to create]

- Eph 4:3 NIV **Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the **bond of peace**.
- Col 3:12-14 NIV Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 **Bear with each other** and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you**. 14 And over all these virtues **put on love**, which **binds** them all together in perfect unity.

RESULT = God's Kind of Growth

"The Body grows as God causes it to grow"

"It builds itself up in love"

Eph 4:15-16 ESV 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we are to grow up in every way into him** who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, **joined and held together** by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, **makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love**.

The simplest, yet most profound message I can give you regarding your personal growth in the LORD
"FOLLOW ME"