

# The Reality of Christ vs. Religion

Colossians 2:16-3:4

## Don't let religious people condemn you

### Don't let them judge you – freedom from legalism

Description: diet and days

Evaluation: shadow

Prescription: reality in Christ

### Don't let them disqualify you – freedom from mysticism

Description: pseudo-humility, angel-worship, visions

Evaluation: prideful, empty

Prescription: connect to the Head

### Don't let them dictate to you – freedom from asceticism

Description: rules and “religion”

Evaluation: will perish, no value

Prescription: died with Christ from the world forces

## Orient your life to Christ

### Focus on what's above with Christ

### Because you are united with Christ

In His death and resurrection

In His life today

In His glory to come

<sup>16</sup> *Therefore do not let anyone judge you  
by what you eat or drink, or with regard  
to a religious festival,  
a New Moon celebration  
or Sabbath day.*

<sup>17</sup> *These are a shadow of the things that were to come;  
the reality, however, is found in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup> *Do not let anyone who delights in false humility  
and the worship of angels  
disqualify you for the prize.*

*Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen,  
and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.*

<sup>19</sup> *He has lost connection with the Head,  
from whom the whole body,  
supported and held together  
by its ligaments and sinews,  
grows as God causes it to grow.*

<sup>20</sup> *Since you died with Christ  
to the basic principles of this world,  
why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: <sup>21</sup>*

*“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? <sup>22</sup>*

*These are all destined to perish with use,  
because they are based on human commands and teachings.*

<sup>23</sup> *Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom,  
with their self-imposed worship,  
their false humility  
and their harsh treatment of the body,  
but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.*

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,  
set your hearts on things above,  
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.*

<sup>2</sup> *Set your minds on things above,  
not on earthly things.*

<sup>3</sup> *For you died,  
and your life is now hidden with Christ  
in God.*

<sup>4</sup> *When Christ, who is your life, appears,  
then you also will appear with him  
in glory.*