



Colossians 2:16-23
Holding Fast
to the Head

Col. 2:6 Therefore *as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,*
7 *having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established*
in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.



Warning #1

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, **rather than according to Christ.**

Watch out for people who are too smart for their own good.
too tied tight to religion / works.
too independent for God's use.



Warning #2

1. Christ is the substance, not the shadowy appearance of religion.

Colossians 2:16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— 17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but **the substance belongs to Christ.**

Someone has said, “Having rules in the head is no substitute for obedience from the heart.”

2. Christ is the head, nothing else.



Warning # 3

Colossians 2:18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, 19 and not **holding fast to the head,** from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

“Our deepest problem is that we seek to find our identity outside the story of redemption.” Paul David Tripp

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands

3. Self-made religion & religion based on self is of no value.

All I have is Christ, if I have died with Christ.

Colossians 2:20 If **you have died with Christ** to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” 22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23 These are matters which have, to be sure, **the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.**

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us,
a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away;
and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may
bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word
which I have spoken to you. 4 *Abide in Me, and I in you.* As
the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the
vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the
vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him,
he bears much fruit, for *apart from Me you can do nothing.*

2 Peter 1:2 **Grace** and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that **His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them **you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

2 Peter 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or shortsighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.