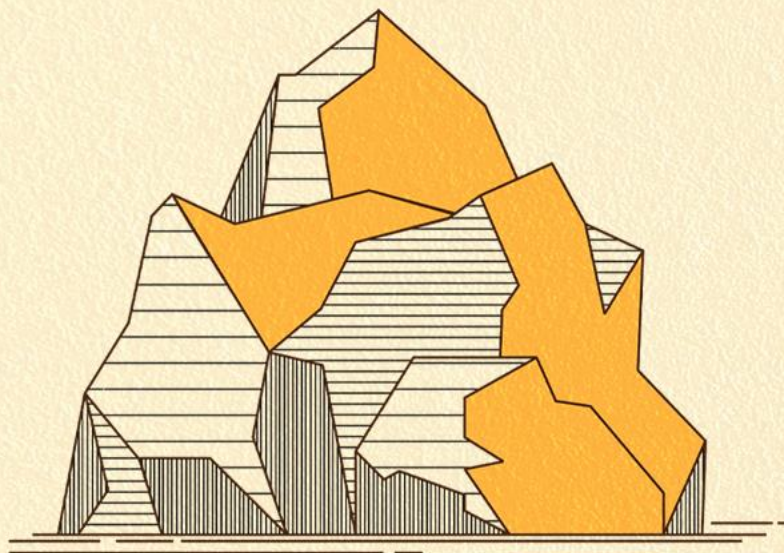
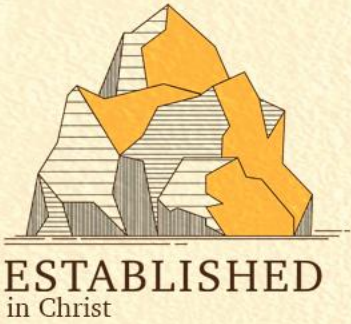




ESTABLISHED
in Christ

Biblical Freedom

Colossians 2:16-23

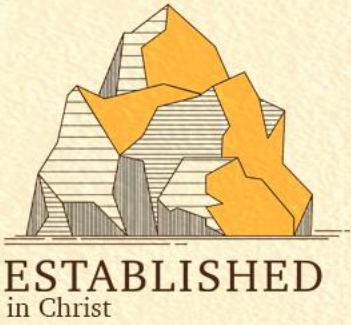


John 8:31-34

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and **you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**”

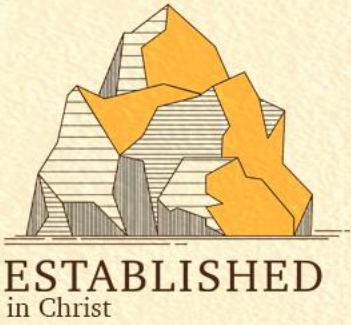
They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.



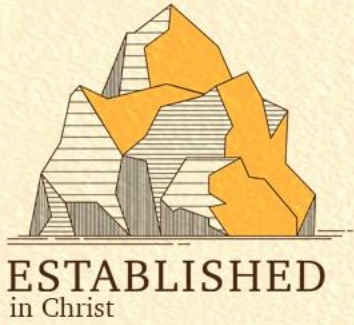
2 Peter 2:19

They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.



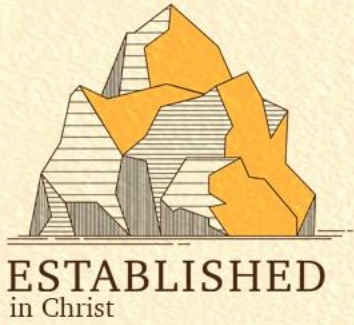
Titus 2:3-5

But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—**who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery**—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.



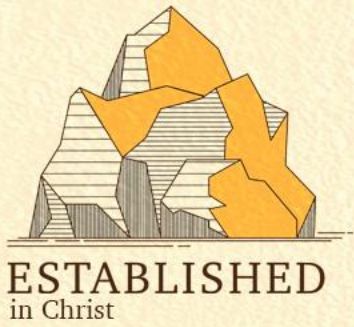
Summary: Colossians 2

- In Christ, are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.



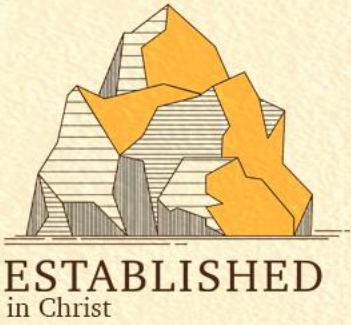
Summary: Colossians 2

- In Christ, are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- In Christ, the fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him.



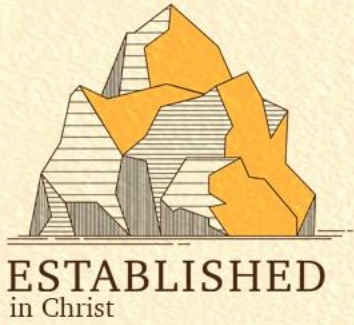
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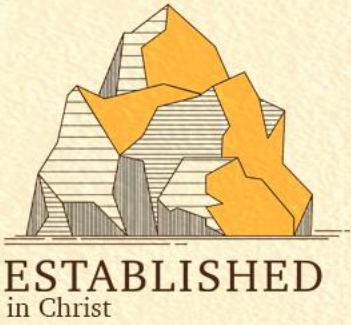
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- In Christ we have been circumcised by putting off the body of the flesh.
- In Christ, we have been crucified, buried, and raised to new life.



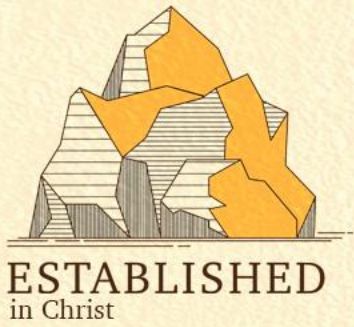
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- In Christ, God has forgiven all our trespasses.



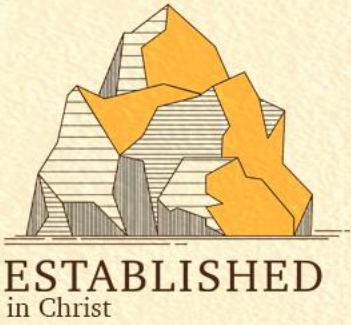
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- In Christ, God has forgiven all our trespasses.
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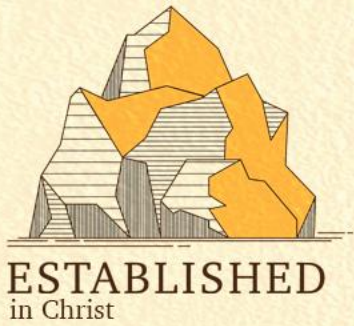
Summary: Colossians 2

- In Christ, God has forgiven all our trespasses.
- In Christ, the record of debt that stood against us has been cancelled.
- In Christ, God has triumphantly disarmed all rulers and authorities.



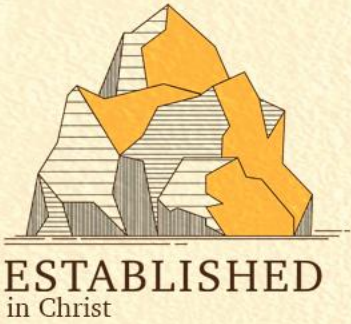
Colossians 2:16-23 (page 984)

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. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.



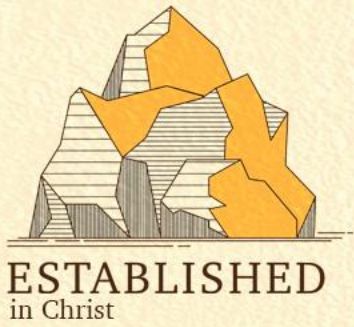
Colossians 2:16-23 (page 984)

Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.



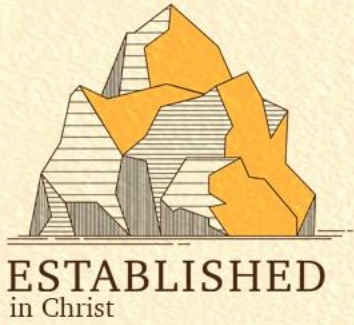
Colossians 2:16-23 (page 984)

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—“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? 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.



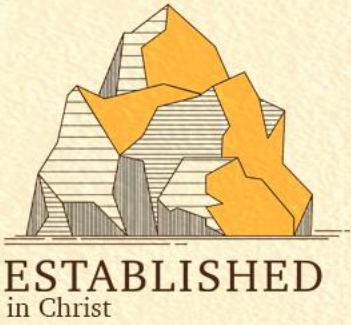
Religious Syncretism

The blending of different religious beliefs, practices, or traditions into a new, unified system, or the incorporation of outside elements into an existing faith.



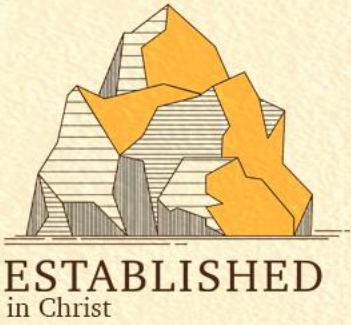
Asceticism

A lifestyle of severe self-discipline and strict avoidance of physical or worldly pleasures in order to pursue spiritual, mental, or moral goals.



Moderate Asceticism

- **Material Simplicity**: Living with only the bare necessities, rejecting luxury.
- **Fasting and Abstinence**: Skipping certain meals, avoiding rich foods, etc.
- **Celibacy and Chastity**: Abstaining from sex or marriage to focus entirely on spiritual devotion.



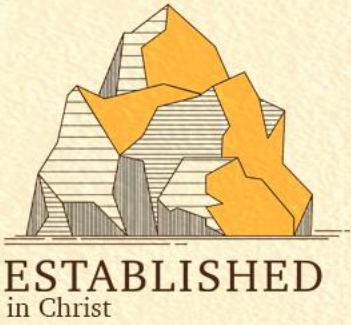
Extreme Asceticism

- **Body Mortification**: Self-inflicted physical discomfort or pain, like sleeping on bare ground, wearing rough clothing, or extreme fasting.
- **Seclusion**: Limited physical movement, total isolation, etc.
- **Sensory Deprivation**: Extreme reduction of personal hygiene, severe sleep deprivation, or taking vows of absolute silence.

"When it wasn't some infirmity that made him experience pain, he himself would inflict discomfort and mortification on his body. Not infrequently he passed the night lying on the bare floor.

As some members of his closest entourage were able to hear with their own ears, he flagellated [whipped] himself, both in Poland and in the Vatican. In his closet, among [his robes], there was a hook holding a particular belt for slacks, which he used as a whip..."

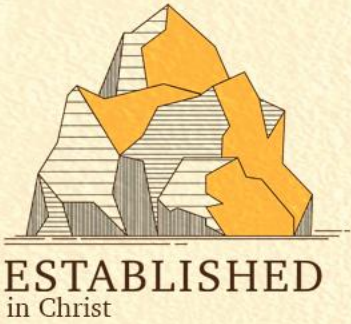
Bishop Sławomir Oder



Not Asceticism, but the Spirit!

Romans 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.



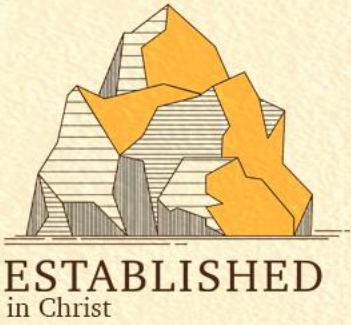
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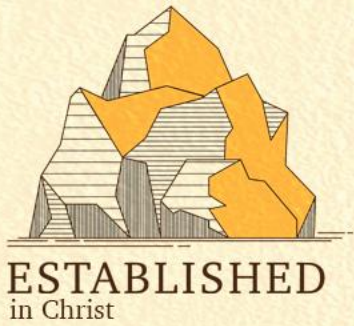
Galatians 5:16

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.



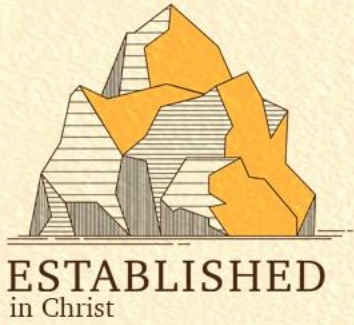
Paul's Three Imperatives

1. Let no one pass judgment on you (v. 16)
2. Let no one disqualify you (v. 18)
3. Do not submit to man-made, religious regulations (v. 20)



Christian Judgmentalism

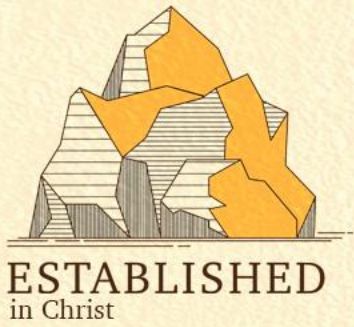
- Media & entertainment choices
- Spiritual disciplines
- Appearance & dress
- Youthfulness or agedness
- Alcohol & tobacco use
- Bible translations
- Worship Style
- Eschatology (end times)
- Spiritual gifts
- Politics
- Gender roles
- Schooling choice
- Sabbath observance
- Church attendance
- Punctuality
- Tithing (10%)
- Personal fitness
- Language/profanity
- (...and many more)



Biblical Commands

Biblical Principles

Personal Preferences

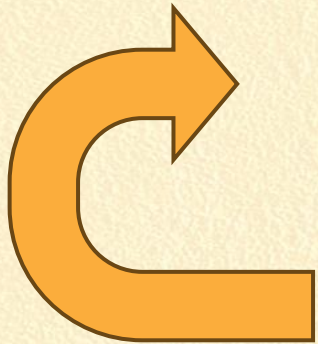


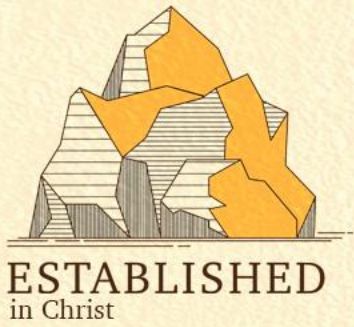
TROUBLE!!!

Biblical Commands

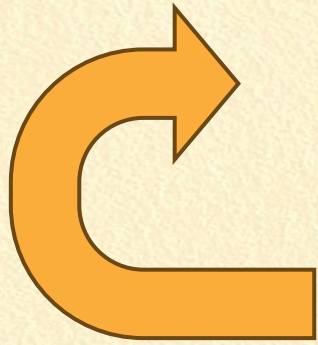
Biblical Principles

Personal Preferences





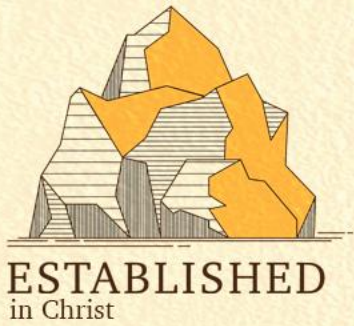
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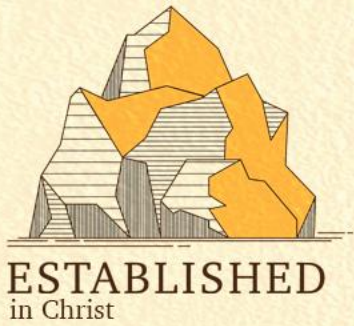
Biblical Principles

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Christian Judgmentalism

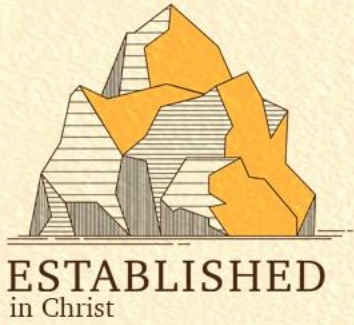
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James 4:11-12

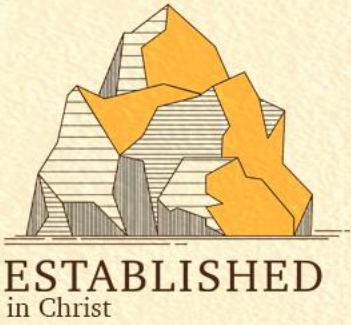
Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?



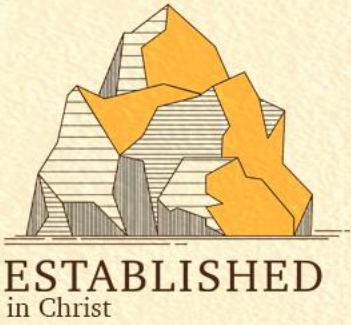
Romans 14:4

Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.



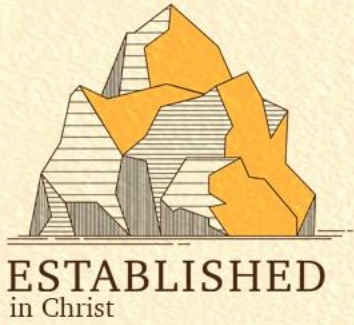
Jesus didn't just die, so that we could escape being judged by God.

He also died, so that we could escape being judged by one another!



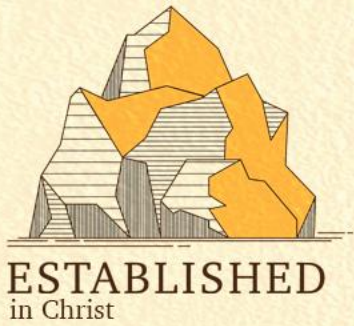
Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.



The History of the World

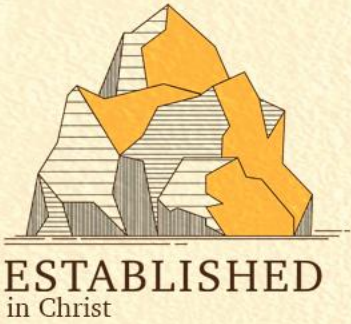
Satan trying to enslave people through a false freedom, and God trying to liberate people through a true freedom.



True Biblical Freedom

Freedom From:

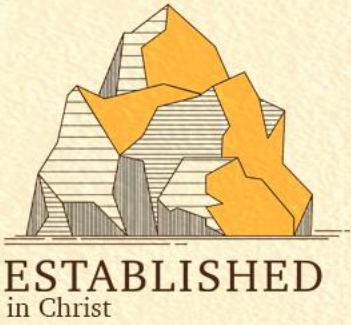
- Sin: Sin controls and ruins lives, but Christ breaks that power.
- Guilt: Believers are free from eternal judgment and the constant need to prove themselves.
- Fear: Death and condemnation no longer have ultimate control.



True Biblical Freedom

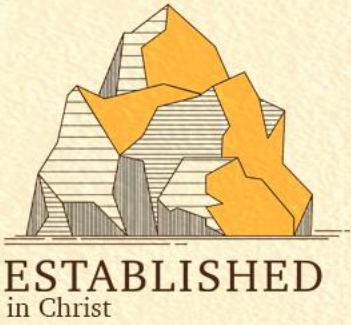
Freedom To:

- **Obey**: Instead of being forced to follow rules out of fear, people are given new desires by the Holy Spirit to do good.
- **Love**: Love for others replaces selfishness. Galatians 5:13 says to use our freedom to serve one another in love.
- **Know God**: People are free to approach God without fear and enjoy a close relationship with Him.



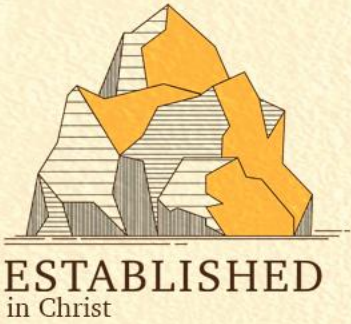
1 Peter 2:16

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, **but living as servants of God.**



1 Corinthians 9:19

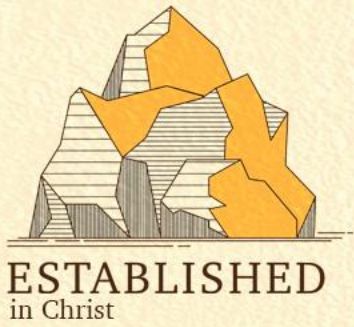
For though I am free from all, **I have made myself a servant to all**, that I might win more of them.



1 Corinthians 8:8-9, 13

Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. **But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak**

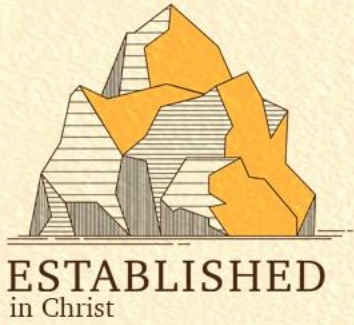
Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.



David Delfeld

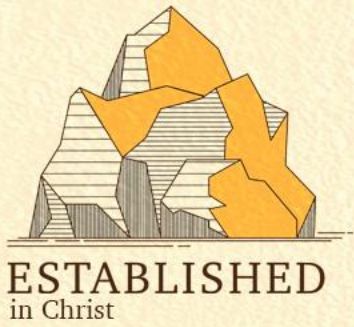
Christian Digital Creator

“When a culture is alienated from God, holiness looks like bondage, and sin looks like liberation.”



1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome.

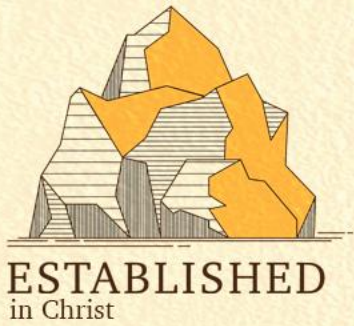


David Delfeld

Christian Digital Creator

“Sin promises independence, but delivers a cage.

True obedience is where the heart can finally breathe the open air it was created for.”



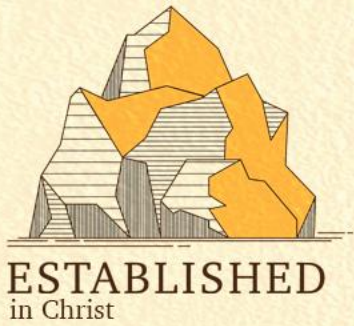
3 Ways Jesus Defeated Legalism and This World System

1. He Disarmed Legalism by Fulfilling the Law

Legalism relies on an unpaid debt and an impossible standard to keep people trapped in performance.

Jesus met the perfect requirement of God's justice Himself, declaring "*It is finished*" (John 19:30).

In doing so, He rendered the transactional system of self-justification completely obsolete.

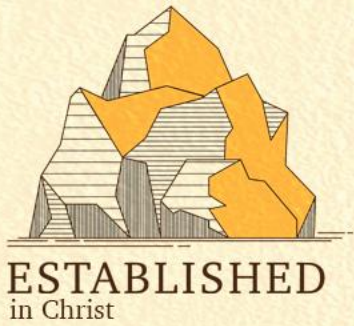


3 Ways Jesus Defeated Legalism and This World System

2. He Overcame the World System

The world's power lies in its ability to dictate value through approval, status, and performance.

Jesus completely stripped the world of its ultimate leverage of sin, condemnation, and death.

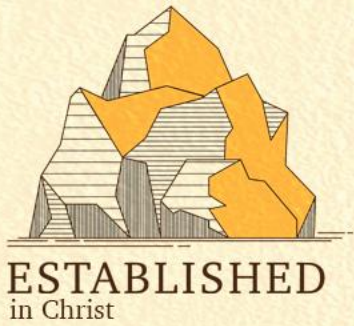


3 Ways Jesus Defeated Legalism and This World System

3. He Replaced Performance with Participation

The world and legalism demand that you work toward acceptance. The victory of Christ means you operate from acceptance.

Power is no longer derived from striving under a system, but from abiding in a Person.



3 Ways Jesus Defeated Legalism and This World System

3. He Replaced Performance with Participation

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus proved that human effort can neither earn God's favor nor overcome the brokenness of the world, leaving **grace** as the only true path to freedom.