



# **A Pastoral Appeal to Lead a Life in Christ**

**Colossians 2:5-7**

## I. A Pastoral Affirmation of Faithfulness (Col. 2:5)

*“For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit...”*

What defines and makes possible our unity here? What is it that makes for Christian harmony, agreement, trust, submission, and likemindedness?

*“...a full knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ Himself...”* (Col. 2:2)

Our shared spiritual union to Jesus spiritually unites us and produces our spiritual unity as brothers and sisters.

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In other words, Paul wants biblical principle to triumph over any kind of personal preference in the life of the church.

*“...rejoicing to see your **good order [discipline]** and the **stability of your faith in Christ.**”*

Here is what thrills and fills any true pastor’s heart: “...*your **good order and the stability of your faith in Christ.***” That’s what we care most about for you in our labors as God’s undershepherds.

*“Good order” = **ordered array.*** The idea is tied to what Paul said about them living in the “*full assurance of understanding*” (v. 2) and going back to Colossians 1:9 where Paul prayed “*that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.*”

## I. A Pastoral Affirmation of Faithfulness (Col. 2:5)

“Here is what brings a smile of approval to the face of our heavenly Father: faithful Christians who set their personal and corporate spiritual experience in that ‘order’ set forth in Scripture. Here is what evokes a heartfelt ‘well-done!’ from our great and glorious God: people whose lives are **fixed and riveted on Christ alone**, whose faith does not bend with every blast of new doctrinal wind, whose commitment is not compromised by threat or fear of persecution or loss of personal convenience or comfort.” *(Sam Storms)*

## I. A Pastoral Affirmation of Faithfulness (Col. 2:5)

These elements of Christian living which are so valuable to God are present in their lives **because** they “*have **received** Christ Jesus the Lord...*”

**And here is where Paul makes...**

## II. A Pastoral Appeal for Fullness (Col. 2:6-7)

What does it mean to receive Christ Jesus the Lord?

The answer is in the title *“Christ Jesus the Lord.”*

## II. A Pastoral Appeal for Fullness (Col. 2:6-7)

What is it that makes possible a life lived worthy of the Lord, which is a life pleasing to Him in all ways?

Being “filled with the knowledge of **His will** in **all spiritual** wisdom and understanding...” for the purpose “that you may **walk in a manner** worthy of the Lord...” (Col. 1:9)



## II. A Pastoral Appeal for Fullness (Col. 2:6-7)

**Walking in Christ** consists of a progression of four things:

1. *“Having been **firmly rooted...**”*

**God has once for all rooted you in Christ.**

## II. A Pastoral Appeal for Fullness (Col. 2:6-7)

**Walking in Christ** is a progression of four things:

2. “And being **built up** in Him...”

*Epoikodomoumenoi* = being brought nearer to **fullness** or **completion**;  
to be **constructed further**.

You are **God's work** in progress.

## II. A Pastoral Appeal for Fullness (Col. 2:6-7)

**Walking in Christ** is a progression of four things:

3. *“Having been **established** in your **faith**...”*

*“**Established**”* = the idea of you being **confirmed** or **stabilized** so that you are **settled** securely and unconditionally.

*“...just as you were **instructed**”* = the idea of teaching that seeks to shape the will of the learner. Your heart is informed and shaped by God’s truth so that you can then exercise it in the direction of what is pleasing to God.

## II. A Pastoral Appeal for Fullness (Col. 2:6-7)

**Walking in Christ** is a progression of four things:

4. “...and **abounding** with **thanksgiving**.”

Why is this so important? Because **ingratitude** fosters apathy, anger, rebellion, unbelief, unkindness, a lack of concern, discontentment, moodiness, irritability, and a lack of commitment.

Being thankful to God **widens your gaze**; it **refines and refocuses** your perspective about yourself and your situation.

Gratefulness takes your eyes off you and puts your eyes on God. You are thankful **for** Jesus and **to** Jesus.



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