

Paul says in Colossians 2:11

"In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ"

Two amazing truths are here:

1. When Jesus Christ went to the cross he was actually being circumcised.

He was the only human being who ever actually fulfilled the law. He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

In Isaiah 53 it says, "... he was cut off from the land of the living."

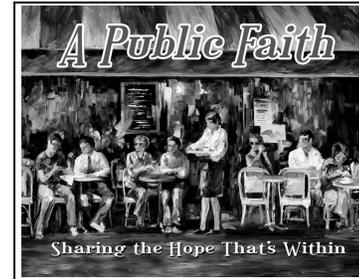
2. In him you've already been through judgment day.

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13,14

When you believe in him, that means that judgment day is past for you. You've already received your sentence, because he took it.

Now there's nothing left for you but what Paul writes in **Romans 8:1**

"... there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ...



Dan Wilvers Part 5 Sierra Community Church July 17th, 2016

How Do We Know Right From Wrong?

Romans 2:12-29

The Apostle Paul weighs in

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. 14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) 16 This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. **Rom. 2:12-16**

I. No one can succeed in being a relativist

Vs. 12- All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

The Apostle Paul says three things, in verses 12-16

1. The first thing he is saying which is interesting is that God will not judge you according to standards you don't accept.
2. The second thing he is saying which is startling is even if you don't have the Bible as your moral standard you're still going to perish on judgment day.
3. The third thing Paul says is there are some things in the moral law of God that all people know instinctively because they've all been created by God.

**It's possible without God to account for moral feeling.
But it's impossible without God to believe in moral obligation.**

17 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God; 18 if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; 19 if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? 24 As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." **Romans 2:17-24**

II. No one can succeed in being a moralist

vs. 17- if you rely on the law...

Don't forget Paul has already said.

vs. 12 ... all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. vs.13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

Why is it also impossible to succeed in being a moralist?

Well, the answer is in verses 21–23.

"... you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?" vs.21-23

When Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, expounds the Law,

"You have heard it said, 'Thou shalt not kill,' but I say you shouldn't even resent your neighbor. You've heard it said, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' But I say don't lust."

You realize, even if you haven't murdered, you've hated, even if you haven't stolen, you've lacked generosity, even if you haven't committed the act of adultery, you've lusted after others.

What the Bible says is we're all sinners. We're all lost. Nobody has the right to look down at anybody else. We're all in trouble. We're all alienated from God.

25 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. 26 So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? 27 The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker. 28 A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. 29 No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.

Romans 2:12-29

III. This is our only hope, Paul says:

vs. 29- No, a person is a Jew who is **one inwardly**; and circumcision is circumcision **of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code**. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.

Here's what Paul is saying- All of your life you've been trying to obey the law of God, but what you really need is a circumcision of the heart.

But there's a problem.. vs. 17-21 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God; 18 if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; 19 if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?

There's no problem with being **law abiding**. Here's the issue: **law relying**. Law relying makes you boast, *"I have a relationship with God.*

The solution is a new heart!
So how do you get a new heart?