



Links Players

13 WHO AM I?: COMPLETE IN CHRIST

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. (Colossians 2:9-10, NIV)

GOLF MAKES YOU HUNGRY. You'll hear plenty of discussion these days about the nutrition of athletes, how they eat foods in balance and according to the schedule of their competition. On the course, you'll see the pros munching a banana or an energy bar—the kinds of foods that keep their body and brain on an even physical and mental keel.

But even for these careful athletes, when the round is over, it's time to replenish. Some hold to strict diets, while others are less discriminate, but all are looking for a refilling of the calories and nutrients they have just spent.

Life can sap us in many ways. When it does, we look for a return of what we've lost to activity or accident, atrophy or attrition.

Considering our spiritual life may be a bit different. There will be times here, too, when we are drained by sin or sickness or a lapse in our attention to prayer and Scripture. When this happens, we also need a refilling. But we must ask the question: Can even a "full" Christian need more filling? You might step back and look at some super saints you know and think, *Wow, they sure are mature!* And yet, in their maturity, they will tell you just how far they still have to go.

Scripturally speaking, the answer to the question of fullness (which is alternatively translated as completeness or perfection) in Christ comes in two parts. First, we have, as Paul wrote to the Colossians, been filled in him. But second, we are not yet complete or perfected.

You might consider this like a good sales rep would. If reps have a day of calls to make in the field, they need two things: gas in the car and an itinerary to follow. The gas powers them from place to place, as Christ does for us by his filling. But the sales route is not complete until the last call has been made.

We are filled by Christ. As he lives in us, he gives us key ingredients of his empowerment: discernment, direction, confidence, humility, a heart of worship and service. But we will drive our route until the day we die, which means there is always more to learn and attain. We might say we are "complete unto the day," but that we have so much yet to gain before our last day comes, whenever that may be.

Opening questions What are your favorite on-course snacks while playing golf, and what sounds good when the round is done?

READING Colossians 2:6-15

Made full in Christ (Colossians 2)

What "hollow and deceptive philosophy" (v. 8) do you find in the world that drains your spiritual fervor and keeps you from nearness with Christ? How does remembering the aspects of identity you have in Christ help you push back against such lifeless perspectives?

As you explore this passage, do you recognize the way Christ has changed you and made you full of new life in him? What are some of the big differences you see? What do you hope is yet to come for you?

Your eternal identity

Reflecting on the teaching you have received in this series, what one or two aspects of identity in Christ bore special meaning to you? How do you intend to secure these in your mind and heart in the time ahead?
