

# Questions About Exegesis of Colossians 2:9

By Pastor Ed Anderson

I understood what the pastor said concerning Ellen G. White, the Trinity & Oneness, and Sola Scriptura. I very much would like to accept Pastor Ed Anderson's gracious invitation to continue to dialogue with him. Nobody has ever asked me how did I come to the conclusion I have concerning Oneness. So, if the Pastor is ok with this, I would like to have the opportunity, using only the Protestant Canon of Scripture to explain how and why I believe as I do....one Scripture at a time.

Would the pastor please exegete this Scripture: "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

Colossians 2:9 KJV

## Answer:

Thank you for your gracious and thoughtful spirit—and yes, I (Pastor Ed Anderson) would be honored to continue this respectful dialogue with you. I deeply appreciate that you're seeking to ground your beliefs in the **Protestant Canon of Scripture** and that you're open to careful study, one verse at a time. That's the true heart of a *Berean* (Acts 17:11).

Let's begin with the verse you selected:

Colossians 2:9 KJV

"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

## Verse-by-Verse Exegesis

"For in Him..."

Paul is speaking of **Christ**, as established clearly in the previous verse (Colossians 2:8), warning against philosophy that draws us away from "*Christ*". So "*Him*" here = **Jesus**.

"Dwelleth"

This is the Greek word κατοικεῖ (*katoikei*) — which means *to dwell permanently*, not temporarily. It doesn't mean God merely *rested* or *manifested* in Jesus like a tent—but rather, **fully abides** in Him.

This is a **strong argument against mere adoptionism** or the idea that God temporarily empowered or entered into a human body. Instead, Jesus **permanently possesses** divine nature.

### “All the fulness”

In Greek: πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα (*pan to plērōma*) — *the complete fullness*.

This refers to the **entirety of divine essence**, not just *some* attributes of God. Paul is echoing Colossians 1:19:

“For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.”

### “Of the Godhead”

This word **Godhead** is θεότητος (*theotētos*) — used only once in the entire New Testament. It refers to **divine essence or nature**. It is *not* just divinity in action (like divine power or miracles), but **deity in being**.

Theotētos = “The state of being God.” Not just *Godlike*, but **fully God in nature and substance**.

### “Bodily”

Greek: σωματικῶς (*sōmatikōs*) — meaning in *bodily form* or *physical reality*.

This is crucial because Paul is affirming:

- **Jesus wasn't just an avatar or illusion of God** (refuting early Gnostic teachings).
- He was **fully divine in human flesh**—not 50% God, 50% man, but **100% God, 100% man**.

## THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Colossians 2:9 is one of the most powerful declarations of the **full deity of Christ** in bodily form. Here's what it teaches:

Phrase	Meaning
"In Him"	Refers to Jesus Christ
"Dwelleth"	Permanently resides, not temporary
"All the fulness"	The complete, total divine essence
"Of the Godhead"	Theotēs — full divine nature, not a reflection
"Bodily"	Literally in human form — incarnated

## CONTRAST TO ONENESS DOCTRINE

The **Oneness** position often uses this verse to claim that *Jesus is the Father, Son, and Spirit—all rolled into one person*. But Colossians 2:9 doesn't **define** the relationships within the Godhead. It declares that **Jesus is fully God**, not that He is the **entirety of God in all roles**.

To interpret it as Jesus being **the Father Himself** would conflict with:

### ► John 1:1–2

"In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was **with God**... He was in the beginning with God."

"With God" implies **distinction**, not singularity of person.

### ► John 14:16

"I will pray the Father, and He shall give you **another Comforter**..."

Jesus is not praying to Himself. He's referring to the **Father** sending the **Holy Spirit**.

### ► 1 John 2:1

“We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Jesus is not our **advocate with Himself**, but with **the Father**—again showing relationship between persons within the Godhead.

## ELLEN WHITE CONFIRMATION

Ellen White affirms the full deity of Christ *in harmony* with Colossians 2:9:

“In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. ‘He that hath the Son hath life.’ The divinity of Christ is the believer’s assurance of eternal life.”  
— *The Desire of Ages*, p. 530

She continues:

“The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead invisible. The Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested.”  
— *Evangelism*, p. 614

This matches Colossians 2:9 beautifully: Jesus is the **embodied expression** of the fullness of God—**not the only person of God**, but the **visible form** of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15).

## FINAL INVITATION TO DIALOGUE

You are welcome to continue exploring each passage *one at a time* with me. We’ll do so with humility, with the Bible as our supreme authority, and in the spirit of **Christian love and truth**.

Please feel free to send the next verse you’d like us to explore together. Let’s dig deeper—and worship the One who reveals Himself through Scripture.

“And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.”  
— *John 17:3*