

# Colossians 1:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

## Analysis

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**For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.** This verse delivers the theological knockout to Colossian heresy. "All fulness" (pan to plērōma, πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα) likely responds to Gnostic terminology. Gnostics taught that divine plērōma (fulness) was distributed across many aeons or emanations, with Christ as merely one among many. Paul counters decisively: all fullness—nothing excluded—dwells in Christ alone.

"Dwell" (katoikēsai, κατοικῆσαι) means permanent residence, not temporary visit. The fullness of deity permanently inhabits Christ, not partially or occasionally but completely and perpetually. This echoes 2:9: "In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." No supplementary knowledge, experience, or mediation can add to what is already complete in Christ.

"It pleased the Father" (eudokēsen, εὐδόκησεν) emphasizes divine initiative and satisfaction. God chose to concentrate all divine fullness in Christ, making Him the exclusive meeting point between God and humanity. This wasn't arbitrary but reflects eternal purpose: the Father delights to glorify the Son and save humanity through Him alone.

## Historical Context

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Gnostic systems proliferating in the first century taught complex spiritual hierarchies of intermediate beings (aeons) emanating from the ultimate God, each possessing partial divine attributes. Salvation required navigating this hierarchy

through secret knowledge. Paul demolishes such speculation: all divine fullness resides in Christ, accessible directly through faith, requiring no esoteric knowledge or mystical techniques. This democratizes salvation while maintaining infinite profundity.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean practically that all fullness dwells in Christ—what implications does this have for spiritual seeking?
2. Where do you tend to look for spiritual resources beyond Christ—experiences, techniques, teachers, or traditions?
3. How does Christ's complete fullness satisfy your deepest spiritual hunger and intellectual curiosity?

## Interlinear Text

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ὅτι	ἐν	αὐτῷ	εὐδόκησεν	πᾶν	τὸ	πλήρωμα
the Father that	in	him	For it pleased	all	G3588	fulness
G3754	G1722	G846	G2106	G3956		G4138

κατοικῆσαι

dwelt
G2730

## Additional Cross-References

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**Colossians 2:9** (Parallel theme): For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

**John 1:16** (Parallel theme): And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

**Ephesians 1:23** (Parallel theme): Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

**Colossians 2:3** (Parallel theme): In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**Colossians 3:11** (Parallel theme): Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

**Ephesians 1:3** (Parallel theme): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

**John 3:34** (Parallel theme): For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

**Ephesians 4:10** (Parallel theme): He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

**Ephesians 1:5** (Parallel theme): Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

**Luke 10:21** (Parallel theme): In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.