

Spiritual Circumcision

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1. Circumcision: The sign of the covenant. Gen. 17:9-14
 - a. Circumcision was for Abraham's descendants (physical and spiritual applications)
 - b. Cutting the flesh
 - c. Covenant in your flesh
 - d. Everlasting covenant
 - e. 8th Day: every baby lived through one Sabbath, entering rest before covenant
 - f. Blood clotting highest on the 8th day of the male's life
 - g. Cut off if not circumcised
2. Physical Circumcision did not change the heart
 - a. Deut. 10:14-17
 - b. Deut. 30:6
 - c. Jer 4:4
3. Spiritual significance:
 - a. physical, outward rituals do not change us inwardly. Obedience in faith does.
 - b. it deals with the flesh nature by eliminating unnecessary flesh
 - c. A person submitted to circumcision; they did not circumcise themselves. Spiritual process.
 - d. Connects us with the NT covenant
 - e. It is an act of taking up your cross
 - f. It is personal and private — as opposed to outward evidences
4. Circumcision —as a Jewish requirement for a covenantal relationship with God—was negated by the apostles. The controversy: Acts 15:5, Acts 15:10 Acts 15:19-20, Acts 21:25
5. NT Spiritual Circumcision of the heart:
 - a. "The Heart of the issue is an issue of the heart." David Psalm 86:11." Unite my heart to fear Your name."
 - b. Roman's 2:28-29 physical vs. spiritual circumcision
 - c. 1Cor. 7:18-19 Circumcision—as a sign of the Covenant was no longer relevant because the Old Covenant was no longer valid.
 - d. Galatians 5:1-6, "Circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything." It was now a faith/obedience issue – not a religious ritual.
6. Col 2:11-17
 - a. Circumcision made without hands
 - b. Associated with the Death and resurrection of Christ through Baptism – the NT sign of the Covenant
 - c. Circumcised through "faith in the operation or working of God."
 - d. "Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's Cross." Colossians 2:14 The Message Bible
 - e. "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. 2:14 NIV
7. Joshua 5 Israel circumcised "a second time." Joshua 5:2

- a. Community reconsecration
- b. Healing required after circumcision Joshua 5:8
- c. Gilgal “rolling” a place of consecration Joshua 5:9 Roll away the reproach of Egypt
- d. While circumcision of the heart happens once, the process of circumcision may happen occasionally in your life as God works in us to make us like Jesus.