

Scripture Reading:

Galatians 5:1-13

Colossians 2:10-14

OVERVIEW OF BIBLICAL CIRCUMCISION

INTRODUCTION

Since John the Baptizer, and Jesus himself, were physically circumcised, shouldn't believers today follow their example and be physically circumcised? (cf Lk 1:56, 2:21)

OLD TESTAMENT CIRCUMCISION

Physical circumcision for Abraham, his descendants, and all males in his household - Rom 4:11

- **A seal demonstrating that Abraham was already righteous by faith**
- **A sign that pointed to Abraham's righteousness by faith**

Heart (mind, will and emotion) circumcision

- **A personal attempt to prevent the sin nature from interfering with obedience to the Law**
- **This attempt produced wrath in the individual Law-keeper due to failure and frustration - Rom 4:15, cf 4:6-7**
- **At the beginning of Christ's reign on Earth, God will (effectively) circumcise the hearts of believers - Deut 30:6**
 - **Millennial unbelievers will attempt to obey Millennial laws by their own strength - Matt 5:29-30**

THE TRANSITION FROM PHYSICAL CIRCUMCISION TO POSITIONAL CIRCUMCISION

No physical circumcision for Gentile believers - Acts 15, Gal 2

Eventually, sometime after the Jerusalem Council of Acts 15, no more physical circumcision for Jewish believers - Acts 21:18-23

- I Cor 7:18-19 - NT believers no longer under Law
- Gal 5:6 IN CHRIST faith, energized by love, provides strength in our spirit
- Gal 6:15 - IN CHRIST A NEW CREATION (= The Body of Christ, the Church) provides strength (in our spirit) cf. Eph 2:15, 1:22-23

NEW TESTAMENT CIRCUMCISION FOR THE GRACE BELIEVER

NT believers are separated from the sin nature ONLY in our position IN CHRIST

We have this position IN CHRIST because God caused us to be buried and raised in Christ by Holy Spirit baptism (imputation)

Now, we must use this imputed separation from the sin nature by framing our thinking on things above - Col 3:1-3

- ◆ Should we (males only) be physically circumcised because Jesus was circumcised?
- ◆ NO! Gal, 4:4 “Jesus came to be out of a woman, came to be under law, in order to redeem those under law”
 - ◆ Rom 6:14 - “We are not under law, but under grace”
- ◆ We are not circumcised in flesh!
- ◆ We are not circumcised in heart!
- ◆ We are positionally circumcised IN CHRIST!

CONCLUSION