

Circumcision

Gn 17¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. ² And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” ... ⁷ And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. ...⁹ And God said to Abraham: “As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; ¹¹ and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. ¹² He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. ¹³ He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.” ... ²³ So Abraham took Ishmael his son, all who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham’s house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very same day, as God had said to him. ²⁴ Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁵ And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁶ That very same day Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael; ²⁷ and all the men of his house, born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

* **Recap from** two weeks ago: What is the relationship between the covenant in Gn15 and the covenant in Gn17?

1Cor 3¹¹ No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

* **The covenant** itself is a means of _____, for in the covenant God formalizes his relationship with us by oaths of love and faithfulness.

Jer 3¹⁴ “Return, O backsliding children, for I am married to you”

Jer 31³² “My covenant [My people] broke, though I was a husband to them”

Hos 1² [T]he Lord said to Hosea: “Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the LORD.”

* **The covenant** is a means of assurance, comfort, blessing, and _____ calling. The same is true in the NT.

1Jn 3¹ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

Rm 8³¹ If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Col 1¹⁰ [W]alk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God

* **Circumcision was** also a means of grace, for through it God conferred a number of _____:

1) Through circumcision, God marked out his people as His _____.

Rm 4¹¹ And he received circumcision ... a seal ...

Lk 22²⁰ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”

2) Through circumcision, God pointed to and _____
_____ righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ.

Rm 4 ¹¹ And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised

Jn 20³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

3) Through circumcision, God _____ key aspects of Christ's salvation.

Col 2 ¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

Dt 10 ¹⁶ Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer. ¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords

Rm 2 ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; ²⁹ but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

4) Through circumcision, God _____ and began to restore key aspects of human life in keeping with his original glorious purposes.

5) Through the foregoing, God acted to ensure that all of his covenant people and their children would be nurtured in the _____ and would _____ faithfully with God and one another.

*Dt 6 ⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!
⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*