



Circumcision- The OT Baptism



First Things First

Remember: After the fall into sin (Gen 3) mankind is corrupted with original sin (Gen 6:5), they are cast away from God's presence in Eden. God is not their God.

Are we just force-fitting Baptism and Circumcision together?

No. Read Colossians 2:8-15. Christ completes the covenant of circumcision and attaches his new promise of entrance into God's kingdom to the Sacrament of Baptism.

Galatians 6:15- For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

How do we define "sacrament?"

"rites that have the command of God, and to which the promise of grace has been added (Ap XIII.4)"

What is Circumcision?

Circumcision is not just plain cutting of the flesh, but it is the cutting of the flesh included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that Word of God?

The Triune God says in the 17th chapter of Genesis, "I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God... As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹²He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring (*ie. "All Nations"*), ¹³both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant (Gen 17:7-14)."

Compare to Baptism in Acts 2:38-39

What benefits does Circumcision give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare. (LSC- IV, p24)

Luther: Therefore circumcision was efficacious among the descendants of Abraham; that is, it brought righteousness, not because of the work alone, which was merely passive, but because of God's promise, which was joined to this passive work.

But if circumcision was efficacious by reason of the promise, and the promise can be accepted only through faith, it follows not only that the little boys who were circumcised were received into the people of God and justified, but also that, because of the co-operation of the Holy Spirit, the little boys have faith (Luther's Works, Vol. 3, page 102).

Which are these words and promises of God?

"I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you... for an everlasting covenant."

“And I will be their God.”

“So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.” (Gen 17)

“nor is circumcision outward and physical...circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.” (Rom 2:28-29)

How can circumcision do such great things?

Certainly not just circumcision, but the word of God in and with the circumcision does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the circumcision.

Luther: But if someone calls circumcision a ceremony, he will concede in spite of this that it differs from the rest of the ceremonies in that it, like Baptism, is a passive ceremony (Luther's Works, vol 3. page 101).

What does such circumcising in the flesh indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam will be cut off as God has promised in His covenant and that we are by faith God's own children through the covenant promised to Abraham.

Past Event & Present Reality

I was circumcised and I am circumcised – Both are true. Same for Baptism.

What happened to babies who died before the 8th day?

2 Samuel 12:15-23- Remember! There is no individualism in the Bible! Family is KEY!

Baptism Replaces Circumcision

Circumcision was the entrance sacrament into God's kingdom. Likewise, Jesus says, “Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born of water n' Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5)

Circumcision in the New Testament Age

Luke 2:21- Baby Jesus is circumcised and ends that covenant's sign

Acts 15:1- “The Circumcision Party,” a sect within Christianity that maintained circumcision as necessary for salvation (cf Acts 11, Galatians 2:12, Titus 1:10)

Acts 16:3- Paul circumcises Timothy for the sake of the hostile Jews present

Galatians 5 – 6- Paul speaks of legalizing circumcision as contrary to the freedom of the Gospel

Galatians 6:15- For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

Colossians 2:8-15- Paul makes the explicit connection between baptism and circumcision

Romans 2:25 – 3:4- Paul's mini discourse on circumcision under the Law

Romans 4:9-17- The promise makes righteous by faith not by a legal adherence to an outward act

1 Corinthians 7:17-20- Remain in the condition you were when you were called

Philippians 3:3- For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.

Luke 1:68-75

⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets
from of old,
⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;

⁷²*to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,*

⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham,
to grant us

⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our
enemies,

might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all
our days.