

Intro

- 1) Paul Says Every Christian == Circumcised == **Why?** Thought == **Thought** OT Thing
- 2) Touches One of Most Difficult Issues In Biblical Interpretation == Relationship **Betw/** OT & NT
 - a) Bec/ == **Both** Continuity & Discontinuity == **Discontinuity** Means == Some **Things** Changed
 - b) **Continuity** Means == **Though** Changed == **Connection** To Things **Went** Before
- 3) So Jesus == In **Celebrating** Last **Passover Meal** → Not **Do Away** W/ It == **Transforms** Lord's Supper
 - a) Still Sign of **Deliverance** of God's People **From** Slavery → **Changed** == No More Blood
 - b) Now Signifies **Ultimate** Deliverance **From** Slavery == **To Sin** → Greater **Spiritual** Deliverance
- 4) 2 Sacraments → **Know** Lord's Supper **Continuity** == What @ Baptism? → **Is There** Any **Continuity?**
- 5) Baptism & Circumcision **Both** Signs **Pointing** To Same Thing == **Both** Point == **Inward Change** of Heart
 - a) Signs Point To Things → Sign Finished == **Points To** HPC = Sign **Changed** == Still **Know** Who's Inside
 - b) Just As Lord's Supper **Replaced** Passover Meal → **We Believe** Baptism **Replaced** Circumcision
 - c) If Continuity **Betw/** Circumcision & Baptism Makes Case for Infant Baptism == Sign Placed On Children

First, What Is Circumcision?

- 1) **(11)** Paul's **Bold** Assertion == **How** Can This Be? == NT Christians? == Paul **Says** Reality **Continues**
 - a) Reason It Continues → **Bec/** Circumcision == Outward Sign == **Pointed To Saving** Relat/ W/ God
- 2) Physical Sign of **Circumcision** Pointed To **Inward** Spiritual **Reality** == To Inward **Change** of Heart
 - a) Deut. 30:6—"The LORD your God will circumcise **your heart** and the **heart** of your offspring, so that you **will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,** that you may live." =
 - b) Circumcision == Work of Spirit == To Change People's Hearts To Love God → Results In == Eternal
 - c) **When** God **Changes** Heart == **Results In** Whole-Hearted—Whole-Souled **Love For Him** == Born Again
 - d) Ez 36:26—"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." == Take Your **Dead** Heart == Give **Living** Heart

- e) **Physical Circumcision** == **Outward Sign** of **Inward Grace** == of **New Heart** → **New Birth**
- 3) Exactly What NT Says → In Rom 4 **Paul Uses Abraham As Example** of Salvation By Grace Thru Faith
- a) Explaining To **NT Church** **What Means To Be Saved By Faith Alone Apart From Works**
- b) **Look At Abe** == Believed God == Heart of Faith == **Credited As Rtness** == **Saving Relat/ W/ God**
- c) Rom. 4:11—"He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the **righteousness that he had by faith**"
- d) God Gave Abe **Outward Sign** of His **New Right Standing** → **Rtness** Before God == **By Faith**
- 4) Here It Is == **Physical Circumcision** == **Outward Sign** Pointing To **Inward Circumcision** == **Still Happens**
- a) **Inward Circ** == Work of God's Spirit == Resulting In **Saving Change of Heart to Love & Faith** In God
- b) **Physical Circumcision** == **Outward Sign** of a **Heart Already Made Rteous** **By Faith**

Second, Every Christian Is Circumcised (12)

- 1) If You Are Christian == **Experienced Same Inward Change of Heart Toward God** == **Continuity**
- a) **Inward Change** To **Love W/ All Heart** → **Put Faith & Trust** In Him == Declared **Rteous**
- b) This **Inward Reality** of **New Heart** → **Nothing Else** == **Essence** of All True Religion
- c) Rom 2:29—"A Jew is one **inwardly**, and circumcision is a **matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.**" → **Essence** of All True Religion == **Matter of the Heart** → **New Heart** of **Love & Faith** To God
- d) This Is True **In NT In Same Way** → Rom 2:29—"A Christian is one **inwardly**, and Baptism is a **matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.**" → **Baptism Points To Same Inward Change As Circ**
- 2) **(11) Change of Heart Described** == **Putting Off Body of Flesh** == **Cutting Away—Removal** of **Flesh**
- a) **Paul Uses Flesh** == In **Theological Sense** == **Old Self**
- b) **NIV** == "Your **whole self ruled** by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ"
- c) Rom. 6:6—"We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin."
- 3) **(11) Spiritual Act Done** == "W/ Out Hands" == **Inward Cleansing By Spirit** of **Christ**

- 4) **(12) Circumcised When Baptized** → Having Been Baptized
- a) Listen Now == This Baptism == Spiritual Act == **Accomplished** Not W/ Hands → But By Spirit
 - b) **Buried** W/ Him In Baptism → **Raised** W/ Him In Baptism == By **Powerful Working** of Almighty God
 - c) Cannot Be Water Baptism == Or Baptism == **Save** People == Paul Talking @ **Baptism** of Spirit
 - d) Baptism of HS == Unites To Saving Work of Xp == Death & Res == Puts Off Whole Body of Sin
- 5) Rom. 6:4—"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." == Bapt of Spirit
- a) Baptism Which Saves Us → Buries Us W/ Xp → Puts Off Body of Sin → Ushers Into New Life
 - b) 1 Cor. 12:13—"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" == Baptized **Into Christ** By Spirit
- 6) Here It Is == Physical Baptism == Outward Sign Pointing To Inward Baptism
- a) Inward Baptism == Work of God's Spirit == Unites Us To **Saving** Work of Xp = Puts Off Body of Sin
 - b) Physical Baptism == Outward Sign of a Heart Already Made Rteous By Faith

Finally, Heart Work

- 1) In OT == Change **To Heart** of Faith **Which** Loves & Obeys **God** == Rteous == **Marked** By Circumcision
- a) Sign == Placed On Believers & Their Children → Even Though Children Too Young To Believe
 - b) In NT **This** Change == **To Heart** of Faith **Which** Loves & Obeys **God** == Rteous == **Marked** By Baptism
- 2) Both **Point To** Internal—Saving **Work of God** == Giving of **New Heart** of **Faith**—Love & Obedience
- a) So First Application == If Haven't Already → Consider Putting Sign of Covenant on Children
- 3) Whenever Baptism → Just Like Lord's Supper == Do It In Remembrance of Him == What He Did
- a) **Remember** Your Inner **Circumcision**—Inner **Baptism** of Xp That **Delivered** You From **Power** of Sin
 - b) **Remember** == Washing & Renewal of Holy Spirit In Own Life == Draw Near To Xp In Saving Power
- 4) Baptism of Spirit == Which Circumcises & Changes Our Hearts == Unites To Saving Work of Christ
- a) Definitive Change Taken Place → Risen Into Newness of Life → No Longer Slaves To Sin

- b) Inner Transformation == **Past Tense** → Circumcised—Buried—Put Off—Raised
- c) **When Jesus Died** == You Died → **When Jesus Rose** == You Rose W/ Him == **Seated W/ Him**
- d) Rom. 6:11-12—*"So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions."* → Remains == Not Reign
- 5) Consider Selves Dead To Sin == Know It—Believe It → Daily Live Like True →
- a) If Neglect To Think & Live This Way == To Nurture Life == Alive—Awake To God == Sin Will Reign
- b) Eph. 4:22-24—*"Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."*
- c) Bec/ Already Put Off → Reign & Power Broken → Daily Put Off Old == **Put On New Self**
- d) Put Off—Put To Death—Crucify == Old Nature W/ **Sinful Habits**—Attitudes—Desires
- e) Raised W/ Christ == Put On New Selves == Created To Be Like God == Rtness & Holiness
- f) Daily Abide In Christ → Reconsider == Dead To Sin → My Heart Alive To God
- 6) Christian Life == First & Foremost An Inward Reality of Faith—Love—Obedience To God
- a) This Inward Reality of New Heart → Nothing Else == **Essence of All True Religion**
- b) Prov. 4:23—*"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."*