

In Christ
You Are Set Apart From The World
And From The Flesh

Colossians 2:9-12

9 **For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,**

10 **and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;**

11 **and in Him you were also Circumcised with a Circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the Circumcision of Christ;**

12 **having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.**

Three (3) Fundamental things
that have happened to you when you believed in JESUS CHRIST.

**Three things that have impact on you in your life on earth
and for all eternity.**

First: **In Him** you have been made Complete

Second: **In Him** you have been Circumcised with the Circumcision of JESUS CHRIST.

Third: **In Him** you have been raised up to Eternal Love.

Verse 10

1 **and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;**

We have already seen in 1:18 that JESUS CHRIST is the head of the Church but He is also the head over all rule and authorities.

and He is the head over all rule and authority;

The head is first of all used in the sense of a human head but it is also used of one to whom all others are subordinate. It is used as a designation of authority.

Here it is used denoting the sovereign rulership of JESUS CHRIST He is Sovereign Authority over the church—that is over every Pastor-Teacher, Deacon or Board. Every Pastor is subordinate to JESUS CHRIST and to the Word of God.

He is the head over all rule and authority He is in rule over all human rule and authority and over all angels, elect or fallen.

Under God's design the **husband** is authority over the **wife**, but **JESUS CHRIST** is in authority over the **husband**.

Parents are in authority over **children** but **JESUS CHRIST** is in rule over **parents** and so on in categories of authority in human realm. **THOSE IN AUTHORITY OVER A NATION ARE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOD.**

But JESUS CHRIST is also in authority over all angels.
This is because of His victory in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT**.
In Ephesians 6:12 this is used to refer to all demonic rule.
Ephesians 6:12

12 **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

Colossians 2:10

10 **and you are in Him and have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.**

Summary

1. Because of the victory of JESUS CHRIST in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** He now sits at the right hand of God the Father, superior to all members of the human race and over all angels.
2. Christianity is a relationship with God and JESUS CHRIST not a religion where we do for Him.
3. Because of His position at the right hand of God the Father and because we are in Him, every believer is positionally superior to all angels.

4. Some may be wondering:

Since JESUS CHRIST is superior to and in authority over all other realms of authority, why is there so much evil and corruption in the world, starting in the home and ascending to the invisible realm?

Believe it or not, this is because of the Grace of God.

All members of the human race have two forces working inside of them. One volition and the other Faith.

No matter what the Calvinist think, every individual on earth has Faith in them, and Volition to decide if they will use that Faith and turn to God through JESUS CHRIST. So, mankind has the volition to decide to go against the Will of God, the Plan of God, but remember there is coming the Judgement Seat of Christ for every believer and the Great White Throne Judgement (GWTJ) for every unbeliever. And SIN will not be the issue of judgment in either of these two judgments. For the believer at the **JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** the issue will be the amount of **time you spent in the Filling of the Holy Spirit** and the issue for every unbeliever at the **GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT (GWTJ)** will be their **decision not to believe in JESUS CHRIST.**

Christian, when you find yourself crying out to God like Habakkuk: **how long and why:**

how long oh Lord will I call for help, and you will not hear.

and

Why do you make me see iniquity?

When you cry out these words to God, know then that you are in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** and God's response **the righteous will live by his faith** –not according to circumstance in life.

5. The believer's position in Christ has completed your triumph with Christ in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT**; We are victorious already, in Him.
6. Therefore, every believer in JESUS CHRIST should now live victoriously as they are positionally in Christ.

Verse 10 began with our completeness in Him, now Verse 11 continues our gain by being in Him.

11 **and in Him you were also Circumcised with a Circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the Circumcision of Christ;**

Not many Christians in the CHURCH AGE have a Biblical Understanding about Circumcision.

Some think that it has some kind of spiritual value here in the CHURCH AGE.

I hope this does not add to the confusion but clears some of the confusion about Circumcision in the CHURCH AGE.

Circumcision

I. Definition:

- (1) Circumcision is the cutting away of useless skin from the male.
- (2) The male child was Circumcised on the 8th day and he had nothing to say about it. It is the cutting away or removal of something that is totally unnecessary.
- (3) Its significance is twofold:
 - 1st cutting away of that which is useless, is a picture of cutting the human race out and away from Israel and
 - 2nd cutting away that which is useless, is a picture of cutting away anything that comes from the flesh.. works of flesh.

II. Significance of Circumcision.

Circumcision was established as a sign of Abrahamic Covenant. Genesis 17:8-14

- (1) 1st significance of Circumcision was it was a ritual related to ***PROMISE OF LAND*** with the Jewish people possessing a well-defined land of Canaan by Abraham's seed.

Abraham believed the promise of God for this land, and Circumcision was a separating himself unto the Lord, therefore, separating was symbolized by ritual of Circumcision.

And if we think about **history**—why has there been, throughout CHURCH AGE history, a battle always going on in the middle east? Right up to this very day, treaty after treaty trying to establish peace in this land, and now our past President got in a long line of trying to establish peace by giving some of the land to enemies of Israel—

This will not work, as all the attempts of past Presidents have shown.... In fact, the last great battle of history...Armageddon is to decide whose land this land is and God has promised this land to Israel and Jews right up to today, Jews practice Circumcision in hopes of this land.

- (2) The 1st significance was that Circumcision was a ritual related to God's founding of Jewish **race**.

Abraham was the first to be Circumcised and the first Jew in human history.

Abraham Was 99 years old and sexually dead when he was Circumcised. Genesis 17:1 and 11. He was Circumcised long after his salvation and long after receiving the Abrahamic Covenant. God commanded him to be Circumcised as an act of Faith, in the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant.

And to start the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant, Abraham had a son at 99; and when he circumcised that son on the 8th day after his birth, this started the Jewish race.

Romans 4:9-12

9 **Is this blessing then on the Circumcised, or on the un-Circumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."**

10 **How then was it credited? While he was Circumcised, or un-Circumcised? Not while Circumcised, but while un-Circumcised;**

11 **and he received the sign of Circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while un-Circumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being Circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,**

12 **and the father of Circumcision to those who not only are of the Circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while un-Circumcised.**

- 13 **For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.**

So, Circumcision had a racial significance

- (3) Circumcision of the establishment of a **New Race**. A physical sign of a **New Nation**.
Abraham was 99 and sexually dead yet by his consenting to circumcision, as an act of Faith, in the promises of God, that he would Father a New Nation.
Circumcision had a national significance
- (4) **Circumcision had a sexual significance**
Only the male was to be Circumcised. The woman does not need such a ritual. By God's design the woman is a responder. Every time a male had sexual intercourse with a woman, hopefully his wife, his Circumcision was a physical reminder that he was set apart and was to make love to only a Jewish woman.
And the woman did not need a sign, for every time she made love with a man, hopefully her husband—the physical sign of Circumcision was a physical reminder to her that she was to have sex **ONLY** with a Jewish male.
So, while Circumcision was only for the male it served to remind both male and female that they are set apart as a unique race.
There was a **sexual significance** to the ritual of Circumcision.

So, Circumcision was a physical or sexual sign to the male that he was to father a great nation and to her that she was to mother a great Race and Nation. Circumcision was a ritual that Israel would be blessed by a maximum number of Jewish males finding the Jewish woman designed for him, and they would live in great blessing both individual and national blessing given by God.

And so, when a Jewish man or woman had sex with Gentile they were sinning against God, against their nation and against the one designed for them.

Most people relate sex to the body, but unless it is related to the soul, it is meaningless and destructive to both the soul and the body.

The happiness of a nation and the stability of a nation is dependent upon a maximum number of people finding the one designed for them and remain in marriage.

That nation is stabilized, secure, happy and blessed. Men should not be forced to serve in the military – they should want to go to protect their country, their homes, and their wives...

But, when that nation, has a number of divorces, (even 2nd, and 3rd divorces) and an increase in homosexuality and Lesbianism it shows just how sick a nation can become.

And now, today, we have the whole transgender issue.

People, use your heads... a little boy and little girl, start out with the confidence, security—I am a boy, I am a girl, but when you take this away, they start off confused, with no security, and then take away the Divine Institution of Family .. of Father .. and Mother, and this leads to more insecurity, even before the child really starts growing... loss of basic security is rotting away this nation.

This nation (any nation with these moral collapses) is headed toward collapse of the Home, Family and of the Nation itself.

There is **NO BASIC SECURITY** in that Nation.

(5) **Circumcision and Spiritual significance**

1st

Circumcision also reminded all Israel, male and female, that Israel and the Jewish race were set apart by God as custodians of the Gospel, they were the representatives of God. They were given the great privilege of all time—this responsibility for the Scriptures from God including the Gospel.

They are Circumcised, **they are different**, they are to spread the gospel to all gentile nations. They had a mission!

(and by the way people, coming from our study in Colossians 2:11—we are set apart to Christ to spread the gospel during the CHURCH AGE—set apart not by physical Circumcision but by spiritual Circumcision in Christ.)

**The believer is different!
And this is one reason
why the world hates Christians.**

2nd:

Circumcision was the sign of Jewish race and no male Jew could partake of Passover without being Circumcised. Circumcision was related to the racial and national importance of the Jews. Passover speaks of the person and death of coming Messiah and therefore a Jew could not observe the Passover unless he was Circumcised.

In the CHURCH AGE, the Communion table is for believers only but not just for believers but believers who are Filled with the Holy Spirit—1 Corinthians 11.

But, it should be noted that Circumcision did not save a Jew, even at the time of its inception. Abraham was not saved by Circumcision.

Abraham was saved by Faith.

Abraham was saved long before he was Circumcised which means he was saved in an un-Circumcised State, makes Abraham a father, or pattern of all who believe in the coming Messiah or after His incarnation, JESUS CHRIST, whether Jew or Gentile.

Galatians 3:29

29 **And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise**

By Faith not by Circumcision.

Circumcision does not save in the Old Testament or in the New Testament. Rituals do not save.

Take a look at the offspring of Abraham:

Ishmael who was circumcised, but his circumcision had no meaning to Ishmael, only to his father.

All the life of Ishmael he was a wild ass of a man, all his life he was a trouble maker. Ishmael fathered many Arab nations — and there has been trouble between the Arabs and Jews throughout all history and there will continue to be until the King of Kings and Lord of Lords returns.

Circumcision had covenant significance to the Jews

Circumcision has a land significance

Land Promised to Israel-Abrahamic Covenant.

Circumcision has racial significance

New Race set apart by God to God

Circumcision has national significance

A new nation

Circumcision has sexual significance

Related sex to soul and destiny.

Circumcision has a spiritual significance

Reminder that they were keepers of God's word, and to spread the gospel.

When a Jewish couple married and when they Circumcised their son, they were passing on the Jewish heritage of the Abrahamic Covenant.

III. Circumcision and history of Israel.

In the history of Israel there is one primary example of failure to Circumcise. It involved Moses.

At about the time when Moses was about to die because he failed to circumcise his youngest son. Exodus 4:24-26

But Moses escaped death by having his wife circumcise the boy. The neglect of a parent to circumcise the male child was an indication of rebelling against God, against the chosen race, against the nation and its promised future in the Abrahamic Covenant.

IV. The ritual of Circumcision has no significance in the CHURCH AGE; No spiritual significance

We are not a chosen race, we are not a chosen nation. We are the body of Christ—We are chosen in Christ and we walk by the Holy Spirit.

Many people in this country realize the physical value of Circumcision and follow this practice but it has no spiritual significance or value. In the early days of the Church many tried to make a spiritual issue out of Circumcision.

Acts 15:1

1 **Some men came down from Judea and *began* teaching the brethren, "Unless you are Circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."**

There was one known believer who was not Circumcised to make this point...

Titus the Gentile troubleshooter!

Galatians 2 and 6:12-13

Galatians 5:6

6 **For in Christ Jesus neither Circumcision nor un-Circumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.**

Colossians 2:11

11 **For in Christ Jesus neither Circumcision nor un-Circumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.**

speaks of a spiritual Circumcision of everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST receiving the **Circumcision of Christ**. Spiritual Circumcision at point of faith in JESUS CHRIST removing that which is useless—works of the flesh.

V. Distortion of Circumcision

Circumcision was distorted into a system for Salvation or entering the Kingdom—distorted into a system of legalism at the beginning of the Church Age.

Leviticus 15:1 and 24 and Galatians 6:12-13—

Legalism can keep people from Salvation and can ruin a Local Church; or a marriage.

This is what Paul was fighting in Romans 2 and throughout his writings.

Circumcision is used in a spiritual analogy

Colossians 2:8-12

Even in the Old Testament, Circumcision was used for Spiritual analogy.

Deuteronomy 10:16

16 **Circumcise then your heart, and stiffen your neck no more.**

The King James is correct here:

Circumcise then the foreskin of your heart and stiffen no more

Jeremiah 4:4

4 **"Circumcise yourselves to the LORD And remove the foreskins of your heart, Men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My wrath go forth like fire and burn with none to quench it, Because of the evil of your deeds."**

Now back to Colossians 2:11