

The Book of John: Circumcision And The Sabbath

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19 Has not Moses given you the Law, yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me? As we discussed last week according to Deut. 13: if a prophet doing miraculous signs yet try's to lead God's people away from the God who brought Israel out of bondage /slavery is to be put to death.

But what law Jesus is referring to here we see in vs. 21 and it tells us he is specifically referring to the Law of circumcision. Jesus tells them they have been given a law and yet none of them are keeping the Law-again the Law of circumcision. Now we know he is talking primarily with the Pharisees, for the crowd doesn't really seem to be keeping up with this conversation.

Vs. 20 The Crowd says are you demon possessed, Who is trying to kill you? They think Jesus is showing signs of paranoia like that of a demon possessed person.

21 back to the Pharisees; because I did one miracle you're astonished, (what is he referring to healing on the Sabbath), remember that is what this particular group is desiring to kill him for. Now I want to get this right so follow with me or look to the screen.

22 Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. 23 Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath?

The law of circumcision seems to supersede the Law of the Sabbath, it is ok to circumcise a boy on Sabbath, and so why are you mad at me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath? It seems to me Jesus is unequivocally linking circumcision and healing. Let's first look at the healing through circumcision before exploring, how the Pharisees where not keeping this law. Circumcision is the cutting away of the flesh, representing sin. Thus symbolically dealing with the human condition that presents in, having fallen and not being able to get up.

Obviously this is a spiritual law, a symbol, not a surgery that removes ones sin nature.

Let's quickly move to the religious leaders who Jesus' says are not keeping this Law. In Jeremiah 4:4 God instructs his people to Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, circumcise your hearts He tells them in: Deuteronomy 30:6 The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

By circumcising themselves to the Lord, this would be to cut off from that which pulls one away from true worship of God (recognizing who he really is: I AM). Separate yourselves from the evil desires of the FLESH. This circumcision of the heart allows one to LOVE-love him with all your heart with all your soul, and live. Isn't that what Jesus is always talking to them about living eternally.

Deeds of the flesh: Paul referred to these as deeds of the flesh.

Romans 8:3

For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, the whole body of our Lord was cut off for our sake.

Galatians 5:24

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

A true cutting off of the flesh-is circumcision of the heart, and allowing Him to give you the desires of your heart, his not yours.

Galatians 5: 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity (something that is impure or makes something else impure) and debauchery (extreme indulgence); 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord (active quarreling), jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions (rebellious) , factions (offshoots, we'll just go do our own thing) 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Pure religion is this: James 1:26-27 26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure (unpolluted) and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Colossians 2:11 9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

OT Circumcision Vs. NT Baptism

How many of you this morning would say that OT circumcision is more severe than NT Baptism? The OT required the cuttings away of a little skin to symbolize you are looking forward to the removal of sin in the flesh. The NT Baptism symbolizes the crucifying of the flesh. Jesus always ups the ante, OT say don't do

this or that Jesus say don't even think about it. In his earliest teachings: Matthew 18:8-10 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

Jesus died to free us from the indebtedness to sin which condemned us, but also to free us to live pure lives, by faith in his atoning work on the cross. Believer's baptism is your death certificate and walking papers as a freed man! If you have a death warrant on you, is this baptism optional?