

CIRCUMCISION, BAPTISM AND HOLY SPIRIT

By Cliff Foster

I. The Chosen People:

A. The Old Covenant people is Israel:

1. **Deuteronomy 7:6** “*For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the Earth*”
2. **Genesis 17:6-7** “*And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.*”

B. The New Covenant people is the Church:

1. God prophesied to make a New Covenant that would re-unite Israel:
Jeremiah 31:31-34 “*But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people*”
(see also **Romans 4:16-17** God fulfills the promise to Abraham to be the father of many nations through the New Covenant)
2. God promised that those in the New Covenant will be known by the heathens because they will have his spirit:
Ezekiel 37:26-28 “*And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore*”
3. Under the New Covenant the Church is the people of God, not those under the Law:
Ephesians 2:11-22 “*Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past **Gentiles** (those not under God’s Law)... and strangers from the covenants of promise (law), **having no hope**, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the **blood of Christ** (blood of Christ established the New covenant).... **Having abolished** in his flesh the enmity, even the **law of commandments** (the Old Covenant) contained in ordinances... And that he might reconcile both unto God in **one body** (the church) by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.... For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are **no more strangers** (Gentiles are no more stranger being in the covenant) and foreigners, but **fellowcitizens** (joint heirs with Israel) with the saints, and of the household of God... In whom all the **building fitly framed** (church covenanted together) together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an **habitation** of God through the Spirit (the spirit dwells in the church).”
(see also **Acts 2:1-4** The spirit came to the church; **1 Corinthians 3:16-17** Church is the temple of God that the spirit dwells; **Galatians 3:19-29** the purpose of the law)*

II. The Signs of the Covenants:

A. The Old Covenant sign is Circumcision:

1. **Genesis 17:10** “*Every man child among you shall be circumcised.*” **Genesis 17:14** “*And the uncircumcised man child... that soul shall be cutoff from his people; he hath broken my covenant.*”
2. **Acts 7:8** “*and he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.*”

B. The New Covenant sign is Baptism:

1. **Romans 6:1-10** “*... that like as Christ was raised up form the dead by the glory of the father even so we also should walk in newness of life...*”
2. **Colossians 2:9-13** “*...buried with him in baptism, where in also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead...*”
3. **Mark 16:15-16** “*... he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...*”
4. **1 Corinthians 12:12-14** “*... For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body (the church), whether we be Jew or Gentiles...*”
5. **Galatians 3:27** “*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*”
6. **1 Peter 3:21** “*The like figure where unto even baptism doth also now save us (not putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*”

III. The sign of the covenants is an expression of the heart:

A. The Old Covenant:

1. **Romans 4:3** “*For what saith the scriptures? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*”
2. **Genesis 15:6** “*and he believed in the Lord: and he counted it to him for righteousness.*”
3. **Romans 4:10-11** “*how was it then reckoned when he was in circumcision or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision but in uncircumcision. And he received the sign of that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; That righteousness might be imputed unto them also.*”
4. God’s plea to Israel was to return to him and he would circumcise their heart:
Deuteronomy 30:6 “*And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul that thou mightest live.*”

B. The New Covenant:

1. **Romans 2:17-29** “*... Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? ... but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision of the heart...*”
2. **Jeremiah 31:31-34** “*... Saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts...*”
3. **Colossians 2:9-13** “*... in whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ...*”
4. **Hebrews 8:7-13** “*... I will put my laws into their minds and write them in their hearts...*”
5. **Hebrews 10:16-18** “*... Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them...*”

IV. Old Covenant was Replaced and Circumcision Means Nothing:

1. **1 Corinthians 7:19** “*Circumcision means nothing and uncircumcision is nothing but the keeping of the commandments of God.*”
2. **Galatians 5:2-6** “*... that he is a debtor to do the whole law... for in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh love.*”
3. **Galatians 6:15** “*for in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.*”

V. Gift of the Indwelling Holy Spirit:

The Old Covenant was replaced by the New Covenant. Those who are in the New Covenant will be known because they will have the Spirit of God.

Hebrews 8:6-13 “*For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.*”

Ezekial 37:26-28 “*... And the heathen shall know, that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary (the Spirit) shall be in the midst of them forevermore.*”

A. The Indwelling Holy Spirit is upon Baptism:

1. **Matthew 3:11** “*but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worth to bare: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire...*” (**Luke 3:16 & John 1:25**)
2. **Acts 2:38-41** “*Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*”

B. The Indwelling Spirit is in the Church:

1. Focal Passages that the Spirit is for those Who Walk after God:
 - a. **Romans 8:1-17** “*there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free for the law of sin and death...But ye are not in the flesh but in the spirit, if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you...*”
 - b. **1 Corinthians 3:1-4** “*... and I brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ...neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal... are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*”
 - c. **John 14:15-31** “*...Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?...*”
 - d. **1 Corinthians 2:10-16** “*... For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man but the spirit of God...But we have the mind of Christ.*”

2. The Spirit is in the Church:

- a. **John 14:16-17** “... for he will dwell with you and shall be in you...” (the disciples)
- b. **Acts 1:5** “for John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” (the disciples)
- c. **Romans 8:9** “but ye are not in the flesh but in the spirit, if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you.” (the Jews called to be saints)
- d. **Romans 8:11** “but if the spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you...”
- e. **1 Corinthians 2:10** “but God hath revealed them unto us by his spirit...” (churches of God)
- f. **1 Corinthians 2:12** “now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God...” (churches of God)
- g. **1 Corinthians 3:16-17** “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you...” (church at Corinth)
- h. **Ephesians 2:20-22** “... in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit...” (church at Ephesus)
- i. **Ephesians 4:4-6** “... there is one body, and one spirit even as yea re called in one hope of your calling...” (church at Ephesus)
- j. **1 Thessalonians 4:8** “... who hath also given unto us his holy spirit...” (churches of God)
- k. **1 John 4:13** “hereby know that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his spirit...” (church of God)

C. The purpose of the Spirit is to Manifest God through the Church:

1. **John 14:26** “... and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you...”
2. **John 15:26-27** “... he shall testify of me, and ye also shall bare witness of me...”
3. **1 Corinthians 12:4-11** “... but the manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit withal...”
4. **1 Corinthians 2:10-12** “... even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the spirit of God...”