



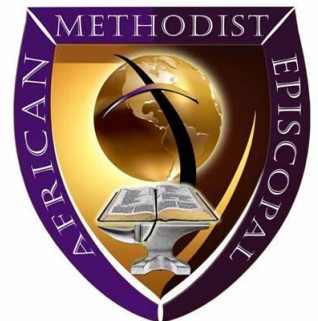
Welcome to St. Paul AME Church Winter Garden, Florida

Where we are changing lives and perspectives through the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ!

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Worship Leader: Sis. Linda Massey

Notes: Old Testament Circumcision vs. New Testament Circumcision



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The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed...The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.

In the **Old Testament**, circumcision was a **physical sign** of God's covenant with Israel. In the **New Testament**, it is **replaced by a spiritual circumcision** of the heart—achieved through faith in Christ and symbolized by baptism—not by works of the law.

| ASPECT | OLD TESTAMENT | NEW TESTAMENT |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| TYPE | Physical act | Spiritual reality |
| PURPOSE | Sign of the covenant with Abraham | Symbol of heart transformation in Christ |
| REQUIREMENT | Required for all males in Israel | Happened at the moment we received Christ as Lord of our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Old Nature dies, and we are reborn in Christ Jesus, becoming new creatures in Christ. |
| SIGNIFICANCE | Ethnic and covenantal identity | Spiritual identity through faith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colossians 1 – Abraham received the promise by Faith Romans 10:9-10, we receive the promise by faith |
| FULFILLMENT | External obedience to law | Internal regeneration by the Holy Spirit |

Colossians 3:11 (KJV)

"Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all."

Key Scriptural Meaning:

- In Christ, all social, cultural, and religious distinctions that once divided people are abolished.
- No one is spiritually superior because of heritage, ritual, or status.
- Christ is central, and He unites all believers into one spiritual family the Body of Christ.

Definition of Circumcision –

Circumcision is the removal of the foreskin from the male's private part.

- In the Bible, it was a **physical sign** of belonging to God's people in the Old Testament.
- In the New Testament, it represents a **spiritual change**—a clean heart and life devoted to God.

| Scripture Colossians 2:9-15 | Explanation |
|---|--|
| Verse 9 <i>"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."</i> | Explanation: Jesus is fully God in human form . He is not just a reflection or representative—He was the entire fullness of Deity (the Trinity) in a bodily form here on earth. <i>(God spared nothing to reconcile us.)</i> |
| Verse 10 <i>"And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:"</i> | Explanation: Believers don't need anything outside of Christ—He completes us. He has supreme authority over all spiritual powers, rulers, or authorities. <i>(Everything is under His feet.)</i> |
| Verse 11 <i>"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:"</i> | Explanation: In Christ, believers undergo a spiritual circumcision —not physical, but a cutting away of the sinful nature . This symbolizes a changed heart and life. <i>(The old man, sinful nature is cut away; it is buried.)</i> |
| Verse 12 <i>"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."</i> | Explanation: Baptism symbolizes our union with Christ —dying to sin and being raised to new life. Just as God raised Jesus, He raises us spiritually by faith. <i>(We are raised as new creatures.)</i> |
| Verse 13 <i>"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;"</i> | Explanation: We were once spiritually dead —separated from God by sin—but Christ made us alive with Him and forgave all our sins . |
| Verse 14 <i>"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"</i> | Explanation: The written record of our sins and the law's demands against us were erased when Jesus died. He nailed it to the cross , symbolizing full payment and cancellation. |
| Verse 15 <i>"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."</i> | Explanation: Christ defeated all demonic and spiritual powers through the cross. He exposed their weakness and publicly triumphed , like a victorious king displaying his conquered enemies. |

Old Testament (Circumcision)

New Testament (Circumcision)

1. Origin and Command

- **Genesis 17:9–14** – God commands Abraham and his descendants to be circumcised as a **sign of the covenant** between them and God.
- **Circumcision was mandatory** for all male descendants and for any male in the household, including servants and foreigners.
- **Genesis 17:11** – "You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you."

2. Covenantal Identity

- Circumcision was a **marker of identity** for the people of Israel—it distinguished them from other nations.
- **Uncircumcised males** were cut off from the covenant community (**Genesis 17:14**).

3. Spiritual Implication

While primarily physical, the **spiritual significance** was foreshadowed:

- **Deuteronomy 10:16** – This verse is part of **Moses' address to Israel** as he calls them to spiritual renewal and obedience after receiving the Ten Commandments a second time (see Deut. 10:12–22).
- This hints at the **inner transformation** God desired, not just external rituals.

1. Fulfillment in Christ

- The New Testament redefines circumcision through **Christ's death and resurrection**.
- **Romans 2:28–29** – Paul argues that true Jewish identity is **inward**, and "circumcision is of the heart, by the Spirit."

2. No Longer Required for Believers

- **Acts 15 (Jerusalem Council)**: Early Church leaders determined that **Gentile converts** did **not need to be circumcised** to be saved.
- **Galatians 5:6** – "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."
- Paul strongly opposed those who insisted on circumcision for salvation, calling it a **return to slavery** under the law (**Galatians 5:1–12**).

3. Spiritual Meaning

- Circumcision in the NT symbolizes **dying to the flesh** and living by the Spirit.
- **Colossians 2:11–12** – "In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands... having been buried with him in baptism."