

Circumcision: The Sign of the Covenant

Genesis 17:9-14, 23-27

The Gospel According to Genesis: The Life of Abraham

Sunday, May 23, 2010

Circumcision: The Sign of the Covenant

Genesis 17:9-14, 23-27

The Gospel According to Genesis: The Life of Abraham

Sunday, May 23, 2010

III. Was CIRCUMCISION a condition for a covenant relationship with God?

Not a condition, but a _____
_____ of obedience.

Faith is the _____, circumcision was a piece
of the required _____.

IV. Why isn't CIRCUMCISION a command for us?

1. Because Jesus Christ, the promised Seed has come and circumcision is no longer _____ or _____.
2. Because the Abrahamic covenant has now been _____ by Christ's New Covenant, accompanied by the new sign of _____.
3. Because God's people are no longer identified and defined by their relationship to _____, but by their relationship to _____.
4. Because we have been _____ in Christ.

I. Why should we care about CIRCUMCISION?

- 1.
- 2.

II. Why is CIRCUMCISION a command for Abraham and his descendants?

1. As a sign of Abraham's _____ of God's covenant and promises.
2. As a sign of physical _____ for God's covenant people.
3. As a sign of man's _____ to create a future, identity and salvation apart from God.
4. As a sign of God's promise of a _____, _____, that would bring salvation to all nations.
5. As a sign of a _____ heart . . . a faith filled heart, set apart for God.

Stuff for Growth Groups

Stuff for Growth Groups

Circumcision: The Sign of the Covenant *Genesis 17:9-14, 23-27*

Circumcision: The Sign of the Covenant *Genesis 17:9-14, 23-27*

PREPARING to be with One Another

Use a separate sheet of paper or notebook to work through these questions in advance of your Growth Group gathering. The more people come prepared, the richer and deeper and more real our discussions will be with one another.

CONNECTING with One Another

Open your time by checking in with one another to see how you're doing and how one another's week was.

EXPLORING God's Word with One Another

Remember, we're giving you more than you can really discuss here.

Pick a few questions that will take you back into the content of the passage and message.

1. Read Genesis 17:9-14, 23-27. And also Deuteronomy 10:16-21; Jeremiah 9:25-26; Acts 15:1-11; Romans 2:28-29, 4:9-12; Philippians 3:2-3, Colossians 2:11-12, 3:9-11. Summarize each text as it is read.
2. How did you "come under God's Word" in this text/message? What was most interesting and/or challenging for you in this week's text/message? What were the thoughts you had and/or the emotions you felt as you grappled with God's Word this week?

3. Why are we spending our time talking about this delicate and embarrassing topic of circumcision?
4. Why does God command a mark on the male reproductive organ? (Think about the context of Abraham's journey of faith AND think about the BIG promises of God!)
5. Is circumcision a condition or a required response to a covenant relationship with God? What's the difference? How do Genesis 15:6 and Romans 4:9-11 help answer these questions?

APPLYING God's Word with One Another

1. If someone were to ask you, "Why do Christians not practice circumcision?" how would you answer? Which Biblical text could you point to for support? (It's one you just read!)
2. What is now the sign of Christ's new covenant? Is it a condition or a required response?
3. What does it mean to be circumcised of heart and what does it have to do with us? Check out Deuteronomy 10:16-21!

PRAYING for One Another

Share personal requests. Use the truth of the message as a "springboard" to pray for your personal growth, your Growth Group and the growth of our life together at GraceSLO.