

This week's memory verse: **Colossians 2:13**

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.

### **Read Colossians 2:11-23**

In the Old Testament, God implemented the act of circumcision to represent for Israel, a covenant relationship with God.

Read how God directed Abraham in **Genesis 17** and Moses in **Deuteronomy 10:12-22** and what the Bible says about circumcision.

1. In Deuteronomy 10:16, Moses tells God's people to "circumcise your hearts". What do you think that means?

I believe it is referring to making the LORD our God the only God of our life and begin committed to Him because we know He is committed to us and He alone is worthy. It means cutting off everything that pulls us away from God.

Read Colossians 2:11-12 again. We see in this verse that Paul expresses how circumcision of the heart in Christ refers to the removal of our flesh desires. That we enter into a covenant relationship with Jesus.

2. How does baptism in Christ now represent that covenant relationship with Jesus?

In the same way, when we are baptized we are confessing our covenant relationship with Jesus and identifying with Him for new life. We are committing to an obedient life of love with Jesus.

3. How are circumcision and baptism spiritually similar? How are they spiritually different?

Both represent a covenant relationship with God. Both are because God chose us (the Israelite Nation in the Old Testament and the Jesus Followers in the New Testament).

But they are different in that the Old Testament covenant was broken by man and the New Covenant relationship with Jesus is already completed by Christ. One was a shadow of the other. One was to show that without Jesus, we could not enter an eternal covenant relationship because we would fail on our part so God sent Jesus to fulfill and complete the relationship. (Check out Matthew 5:17) Our covenant with God is secure and complete in Jesus Christ.

To help you in answering question #3, read The Message's paraphrase of the text from Colossians 2:9-14.

*Entering into this fullness is not something you figure out or achieve. It's not a matter of being circumcised or keeping a long list of laws. No, you're already in—insiders—not through some secretive initiation rite but rather through what Christ has already gone through for you, destroying the power of sin. If it's an initiation ritual you're after, you've already been through it by submitting to baptism. Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did*

*Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross.*

4. Read Colossians 2:14. What does it mean to cancel the charge? How would you explain that to someone as it relates to yourself?

*Jesus paid the price. He paid the debt. Ask people to share and let it be a time of testimony of truth.*

5. Read Colossians 2:15. What is Paul saying? How does it make you feel that the enemy has been defeated and Jesus is leading them as captives in His victory parade?

*Praise God that the enemy cannot defeat me because in Christ I have victory with Him.*

6. How should this affect the way you respond to Spiritual Attacks?

*People should find confidence in Jesus. The fear of evil should not affect Christians. We should live victorious lives.*

*(I recommend reading Ephesians 6:10-12 and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)*