

GOD WANTS YOU CIRCUMCISED!

Circumcision for religious or cultural reasons is not really a good thing. It should be limited to medical need. What would we think if a new religion appeared that wanted babies tattooed? That would be more ethical than circumcision which removes very sensitive and very important and very rich nerve endings. Culture and religion are never justifications for hurting a baby. You cannot say it is okay to hurt the most dependent and vulnerable of human beings, baby boys, and then say it is wrong to do it to an adult without their consent.

As bad as circumcising for religious reasons is, anybody commanding that it be done or any religion commanding it is worse and an unconscionable outrage.

Catholics do not circumcise but that is nothing to praise them for. They have only religious reasons for not doing it. They think God commanded it one time but it was not done away with so much as rendered unneeded. It became obsolete.

The Catholic Church needs to make it clear that it is unethical. That will never happen. Catholicism may not circumcise but that is nothing to praise. It does not ban it as such but its reasons for not doing it are religious reasons not humanistic or humanitarian ones. It is only dropped because it thinks God does not want it done any more. We need strong and firm opposition to it.

The Bible God commands circumcision but this was made optional in the New Testament as it was thought that Jesus did the obeying for us. This is not an abolition but a replacement.

A MORAL LAW?

The Law did not like anything dirty and foreskins were dirty which shows that circumcision was probably commanded for the sake of cleanliness. Dirt was associated with disease for Israel noticed how when the ill Egyptians used dirt and dung as medicine they got sicker and often died. This means that circumcision has to be done for moral reasons. Since it had to be performed God decided it would be a good idea to use it as a symbol of the pact as well. Even God cannot change the moral law. If he wanted to ban circumcision he would have had to permanently disinfect and clean all foreskins first.

CIRCUMCISION AND BAPTISM

It is stupid to say that circumcision was the first sacrament of the Torah that has been replaced by sacramental baptism in water. Nothing in the Bible indicates that it confers power from God in a magical way.

Paul vehemently opposed circumcision when it was intended as a vow to keep the entire Law of Moses without the grace of Jesus Christ. He approved of it as a sign of the covenant of grace. For the Jew, it was a sign of the duty to keep the whole Law and do the impossible. For Paul, you were bound to keep the Law of Moses but if you failed you didn't lose salvation for Jesus did good works and offered his life to make up for your shortcomings. For the Jews, keeping the Law was bondage and for the Christian it was a joy. Paul rejected circumcision when done for the wrong reasons as worthless. How Roman Catholics can accept the baptisms performed by Protestants whose ideas of baptism differ from the Catholic is a mystery. Paul made it clear that circumcisions performed with the wrong understanding are worthless so it follows that the same must be true of baptisms.

OTHER REASONS FOR CONDEMNING CIRCUMCISION

What about people who just start new religions and sects and who start circumcising? You can't ban rabbis who have no medical training from doing it and then ban the maverick lunatics who start these new faiths! Why should an established religion get a license to hurt a child? What about perverts who we may call circumfetish who enjoy pornographic fantasies about circumcising baby boys and children and men?

CONCLUSION

There is nothing in the Bible to say that circumcision is abolished and that non-Jews don't need it. The need for the rite shows that Christianity is not really Christian at all. It only gave up the rite because it wanted to make getting converts easy.

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