

February 12, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Genesis Behind The Curtain: Abraham Part 2
Ep. 3 – The Covenant
Genesis 17:9-14

9 Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must **keep my covenant**, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come.¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, **the covenant you are to keep**: Every male among you shall be circumcised.¹¹ You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.¹² For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner--those who are not your offspring.¹³ Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. **My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.**¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

A Partnership With God: In the Old Testament, God sets out a series of covenants with mankind. **All of these were broken.** In response, God instituted a new covenant through Jesus which was kept, hence breaking the curse of sin and offering eternal life to all.

Previous (OLD) Covenants: Adamic/Edenic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Davidic.

- **Based upon actions or following the law.**
 - **Vs. 9-10** Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must **keep my covenant**, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come.¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant **you are to keep**.
 - **The Catch:** Humans are unable to fully keep up their end of the bargain.

The New Covenant:¹

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴

And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

¹ https://www.openbible.info/topics/new_covenant

The major difference between the old and new covenant is that **righteousness** no longer comes through “**Covenant Keeping**”, but rather **faith** in the one, Jesus, who kept and fulfilled the original covenant.

Question? If we are no longer bound by the law can we now do whatever we want?

- In this world you cannot separate the physical from the spiritual.

The Circumcised Life:

Romans 2:25-29

For circumcision benefits you if you observe the law, but if you are a lawbreaker, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. ²⁶ Therefore if an uncircumcised man keeps the law's requirements, will his uncircumcision not be counted as circumcision? ²⁷ A man who is physically uncircumcised, but who fulfills the law, will judge you who are a lawbreaker in spite of having the letter of the law and circumcision. ²⁸ For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, and true circumcision is not something visible in the flesh. ²⁹ On the contrary, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart—by the Spirit, not the letter.^[a] That man's praise^[b] is not from men but from God.

Small Group Questions:

1. Many people don't lean into the biblical call to see God as a partner. Do you treat God as a partner in any areas of your life and what are the benefits of doing so?
2. The Old Covenant was all about keeping the law while the New Covenant is about being free from the law. Is it then now possible to break God's law?
3. How do our physical decisions affect our spiritual well being?
4. What does it mean when the book of Romans tells us to have a circumcised heart?
5. How will having a circumcised heart help us to actually keep the physical requirements of God's law?