

Religious Myths vs. Bible Truths

We are all guilty of following them, like the blind following the blind and ending up in a ditch. But as we search the Word and hear by the Spirit, we uncover the real truths. It is then that we can distinguish truth from religious myth, as we do here.

The following religious myths are in no particular order of importance, but rather as His Spirit has brought them to mind, with the most current on top.

What about circumcision?...hasn't that requirement ended?

Circumcision was made as an **outward sign** that the person was in covenant with God, (**Genesis 17:11**). Ishmael was conceived before Abraham was circumcised. Isaac was conceived after Abraham was circumcised. The true son of the inheritance cannot come forth until after circumcision. Circumcision was a token or sign that there was covenant with God, which would bring forth His life in His people. Under the new/renewed covenant circumcision is just as important, but it has been raised to a higher standard. Circumcision has not been put away, but rather made more challenging.

How? Well, now circumcision must be an **inward sign** that the person is in covenant with God. It must be a circumcision of the flesh-nature/carnal-nature/Adamic-nature of the heart. In the first covenant one had to keep the law outwardly. That was the Word. But in the new/renewed covenant the law must still be kept according to the Word **AND** the Spirit. The Word is now raised up into the greater level (more mature realm), of the Spirit. The Spirit gives understanding to the Law. The Word without the Spirit lacks life. As we grow up we have more responsibility. Yet with that increased demand comes increased ability and increased liberty. The Law/Word now requires **more not less!** But in His strength it is easier to keep.

“25. The Jewish ceremony of circumcision is worth something only if you obey God’s law. But if you don’t obey God’s law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile. 26. And if the Gentiles obey God’s law, won’t God give them all the rights and honors of being his own people? 27. In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God’s law will be much better off than you Jews who are circumcised and know so much about God’s law but don’t obey it.

For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the Jewish ceremony of circumcision. 29. No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not a cutting of the body but a change of heart produced by God’s Spirit. Whoever has that kind of change seeks praise from God, not from people.”

Romans 2:25-29 New Living Translation

For the Apostles, this was a hotly debated issue. Their mind-set was under a paradigm shift from obeying the letter of the “Word” to obeying the “Word-According-To-The-Spirit”. A nice parallel is a marriage contract. The marriage that is one in spirit as well as in legal contract is far superior to a marriage that has just a legal contract but lacks the union of spirit.

When the Spirit seems to contradict the Word, then we look closer. The Spirit never contradicts the Word, but rather illuminates it for greater understanding. The same debate continues today. Many Bible teachers want to keep the Spirit out of the Word. When this happens, then the interpretation of the Word is typically according to the natural mind, and misses the point. When Bible teachers want to go by just the Spirit and keep the Word out, then they fly off into error on the other side of the road. The Word and the Spirit are the two witnesses of His Life. Both Moses (representing the Law/Word), & Elijah (representing the Spirit), pointed to Jesus/Yeshua on the Mount of Transfiguration.

A remaining question is whether or not the heart circumcision negates the requirement for the physical circumcision. The parents of the boy may have their baby circumcised in faith that the child will later establish a covenant relationship with God; much in the same reasoning that infants are baptized in water. (Also medically there is plenty of evidence for benefits of physical circumcision. There are reduced incidences of infections & cancers for the boys later in life. And there is a reduced incidence of infections & cervical cancer for their wives as well.) But in terms of relationship with God, circumcision of the flesh is irrelevant compared to circumcision of the heart.

“And if you belong to Christ (are in [Covenant with] Him, Who is Abraham’s Seed), then you are Abraham’s offspring and (spiritual) heirs according to promise.”

Galatians 3:29 The Amplified Bible

“21. Not every one who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father... 22. Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name? 23. And then I will say to them,... I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly —disregarding My commands.”

Matthew 7:21-23 The Amplified Bible

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Eric & Mary Elizabeth Ellis
PO Box 400
Easton, ME 04740
ericandmaryellis@gmail.com
https://www.bibleconcepts.com