

Feast of the Circumcision of Christ, 01/ 01/ 26

1. This feast day celebrates the obedience to the Mosaic Law of Jesus. Though parents are the ones that took action for this.
2. Jesus does not have ability to fulfill the law on His own, but still it is counted as fulfilling the Law. Covenantal – obedience to be passed down from generation to generation.
3. Likewise with Name – the Baby J. did not specify the name He was to have. M & J did in obedience.
4. Covenantal implications – Naming is a covenantal action – induction into the covenant – given an identity as a member of the covenantal community.
5. Derive Identity mainly from community
6. Along with grafting into the community comes covenantal obligations / req't's of obedience.
7. Circumcision is a sign in the body of Jewish identity and with that identity, obligations.
8. Christ is the bridge between old covenant and new.
 - A) He fulfills the Old perfectly, bringing humanity back into relationship with God

- B) establishing a New Covenant with Himself as the new Cov. Head,
- C) By Him, humanity can be transferred out from under the Law and join the New Cov. Humanity can be healed in Christ.

9. We should note a few things here

- A) The sign of the New Covenant which replaces the Old is baptism. It is no accidental coincidence that we Name a person during this rite of initiation – explicit covenantal parallel
- B) The New Covenant has obligations – obedience. A new law I give to you, that ye love one another as I have loved you. John 13:34
- C) New method for restoration. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- D) New rite of assurance and strengthening – The Holy Communion.

10. As Christians, and most of us confirmed, there are expectations placed upon us:

A) Obedience

B) Participation

C) Restoration – constant confession. Lives of constant dependence upon God.

11. So in today's feast, we comprehend a completion of the old covenant and an establishing of a new and better covenant.

A) Bar is higher – internal vs. external req'ts.

B) But we have been made new creatures in Christ (new identities), we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

12. And we are reminded of the obligations of the New Covenant.

A) Christ fulfilled the old

B) We are called to fulfill the new as it says in the epistle, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

13. Two things here –

A) we are not free from the obligations of the New Covenant. Different than the old, but not complete freedom to do whatever.

B) We are empowered by God to be obedient. Holy spirit in us, and confession keeps us aware of our dependence and plugged in to God.

14. As Christ fulfilled the Law, may we be faithful to our New Cov. Obligations. And may we give thanks always for His grace working in us and through us to bring us and many others into eternal glory.

15. In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. AMEN.

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