

MORONI 8:8

“Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord and your God. Behold, I came into the world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance; **the whole need no physician**, but they that are sick; wherefore, **little children are whole**, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them; and **the law of circumcision is done away in me.**”



References

1. Peron JE. Circumcision: then and now. *Many Blessings* (Spring) 2000;III:41-42. You can read this article online at: <http://www.cirp.org/library/history/peron2/>
2. Matthews RJ. A Crisis, A Council, and Inspired Leadership. *Ensign* (October) 1995. You can read this article online at: <http://www.lds.org> by finding the online version of the October 1995 *Ensign* in the *Gospel Library*.

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SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

Circumcision & Latter-day Saints

Are there religious reasons to circumcise our sons?



“And it came to pass that there arose a great contention among the people concerning the law of circumcision.” D&C 74:3

What do the scriptures say about Christians and circumcision?

“For the unbelieving husband was desirous that his children should be circumcised and become subject to the law of Moses, which law was fulfilled.” ~ D&C 74:3



The purpose of this pamphlet is to help Latter-day Saint couples prayerfully research the spiritual aspect of the circumcision decision. Included is a list of scriptural references regarding the religious significance of circumcision for Christians. There is a wide body of research available regarding the health and emotional aspects of circumcision that you may wish to investigate as well.

Consider that Biblical circumcision was very likely not as severe as today’s modern form.¹ Neither the Bible nor modern revelation give us detailed instructions as to how a circumcision should be performed. Some scholars believe that little, if any, foreskin was removed before or during Christ’s time.¹

Also consider that with other religious ordinances we have a ceremony and priesthood officiator. That is not the case with circumcision today which is most commonly done by a physician, often without the parents even being present. This is far different from a religious circumcision such as a traditional Jewish bris.

The Council at Jerusalem

The circumcision controversy began after Christ’s resurrection. Jewish followers of Christ continued to practice the Law of Moses, including circumcision, and wanted gentile converts to submit to the Law of Moses and be circumcised prior to becoming Christians. In the October 1995 *Ensign* there was a well-written article called “A Crisis, A Council, and Inspired Leadership” by Robert J. Matthews that discusses the Council at Jerusalem in detail.²

“Obedience to the law of Moses was no longer a requirement for salvation since Jesus had completed his atonement. Missionary work among the Gentile nations could go forth directly and without impediment. Yet still there was that conflict between the doctrine of the Church and Jewish culture. The long-standing cultural tradition persisted among many Jewish members for years, even after the doctrinal question was settled.

*“In like manner today, there may be questions on which the doctrinal foundation is clear but on which **tradition or custom are so strong** that the Brethren are impressed not to take a firmer stand, trusting, as did Church leaders in New Testament times, that if the basic revealed principles are known, **the Holy Ghost will eventually lead the adherents to forsake their tradition, or academic popularity, or peer pressure in favor of the word of God.**”²*



“That their children might remain without circumcision; and that the tradition might be done away.” ~ D&C 74:6

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

New Testament (Law of Christ)

Acts 15:1-35 Galatians 5:6
1 Corinthians 7:19 Galatians 6:15

Book of Mormon and Doctrine & Covenants

3 Nephi 15: 4-5 D&C 74
Moroni 8:8