

The Circumcision Party and Modern Parallels

Shalom Family, let's dive into this topic together and see what the Word of Yah reveals.

In the first century, there was a group called “those of the circumcision” (Acts 11:2, Galatians 2:12). They believed Gentiles could not be saved unless they were circumcised and fully converted to the Jews way of life. For them, salvation required not only faith in Messiah but also an outward ritual that marked covenant membership.

This teaching threatened the very heart of the Good News. Paul wrote strongly against it, declaring in Galatians 2:16:

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Yahshua Messiah, even we have believed in Messiah Yahshua, that we might be justified by faith in Messiah and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”

The apostles were not against obedience to Yah's commandments. They themselves kept the Sabbath, the Feasts, and ate clean foods. What they opposed was making any of these outward signs a requirement for salvation.

Modern Parallels Today

We face the same danger in modern times. Some groups insist that unless you keep the Sabbath, observe the Feasts, use a particular sacred name, or undergo a specific ritual, you cannot be saved. Others insist you must join their denomination or follow their exact traditions.

This is the same spirit as the circumcision party: adding conditions to salvation that Yah never gave.

- Salvation is only by grace through faith in Yahshua (Ephesians 2:8–9).
- Obedience flows out of salvation, not the other way around (John 14:15, James 2:18).
- The Sabbath, Feasts, circumcision, baptism, and other commands are good, holy, and should be kept as acts of love and covenant faithfulness. But they do not save us.

Why This Balance Matters

If we say rituals or commands must be done in order to be saved, we fall into the same trap as the circumcision party. But if we say we are saved by faith and therefore do not need to obey, we fall into lawlessness.

The truth is both simple and profound:

- **Faith alone saves us.**
- **Faith that saves is never alone, it produces obedience.**
- **Salvation is only sealed if you endure to the end.**

Yahshua is the only door to salvation. Once we are saved, the Spirit writes His Torah on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10) so that we desire to walk in His ways, not as a burden, but as a delight.

In closing, the circumcision party taught that salvation required an outward sign (circumcision). Today, we must guard against the same mistake, teaching that salvation requires rituals, feast-keeping, or denominational membership. These are good, expected and holy when done in love and hope, but salvation rests on one thing only: faith in Yahshua the Messiah. And *true faith in Him* will always produce obedience from the heart.

Until we meet again, may we continue to walk in the undeniable truth of Yah's Word.

Shalom,

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