WHAT IS CIRCUMCISION?

Modern circumcision is the surgical removal of the foreskin of the penis. In the USA it is performed on about half of baby boys and is declining in popularity. Infant male circumcision is not routinely performed in any other Christian nation. Only about 30% of the world's men are circumcised, mostly those of Muslim heritage.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

In the Old Testament, Jews practiced a minor form of circumcision. Today's cut removes many structures with multiple functions, but the original Jewish procedure left these intact. The New Testament clearly ended the practice for Christians.

In Acts 15, the apostles and others met to discuss the Mosaic law, including circumcision. They decided to not tell new believers to be circumcised. Later, in his letters, Paul clearly told Christian converts not to become circumcised (see 1 Corinthians 7:18 and Galatians 5).

In the 2nd century AD, the Pharisees expanded circumcision to the extensive modern cut in order to prevent its reversal. As Martin Luther notes, this “addendum” causes “extraordinary pain” and is “without and against the command of God.” God never authorized modern circumcision for Jews. And the New Testament abolished even the OT practice for Christians.

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS SAY?

The vast majority of Christians have never practiced circumcision. Christ’s work abolished the practice, even made it reprehensible, like the old animal sacrifices. All major branches of Christianity have taught that it should not be practiced.

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WHAT DO DOCTORS SAY?

Contrary to popular belief, no medical organization recommends routine infant circumcision (even the American Academy of Pediatrics stops short of a recommendation). In fact, most stand firmly against it for the harms it causes.

“Through Christ circumcision ceased.”
John Chrysostom (~400), Thomas Aquinas (~1250)

“Christians may not be circumcised for any reason.”
The Council of Vienne (1312)

“After the promised Christ was revealed to the world, circumcision was to cease entirely.”
Martin Luther (1539)

“By the coming of Christ, external circumcision ceased; [this] is plain from the words of Paul.”
John Calvin (1554)

“Circumcision is only morally permissible [for] disease that cannot be countered in any other way.”
Pope Pius XII (1952)

“Through Christ circumcision ceased.”

Christians in other lands are often shocked to hear that some American Christians circumcise their boys, as it shows a lack of respect for God’s creative wisdom and is a violation of medical ethics. Indeed, popular myths in the United States are disproved by the lack of foreskin-related problems in other countries. God’s design for our sons is purposeful, healthy, and self-cleaning by default, and intact infants do not require special cleaning or routine modification.

“Circumcision is only morally permissible [for] disease that cannot be countered in any other way.”
Pope Pius XII (1952)

Protect God’s little images. Say no to circumcision. Visit our website for references and more information.