

CONCISION VS CIRCUMCISION

CONCISION

- Cut off of self-life by own efforts
- Counterfeits true circumcision
- Born again and then trusts flesh
- Imitation of Christ
- Eternally saved but lose the bridal calling
- Sanctify life by their own self -works

CIRCUMCISION

- Cut off of old creation through Christ's death at the cross
- Jesus died, we died with him
- Accept complete and eternal cutting off of the flesh
- Worship God in the spirit
- Depend on the Holy Spirit for daily sanctification

Philippians 3:2

Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the **concision**.

There is a trinity of hinderers (dogs, evil workers, and the concision) against the Triune God who is working in us and leading us on to certain victory. **"Dogs"** those against which Christ prayed, saying, "Deliver my darling from the power of the dog" – Psa 22:20. Dogs are religious fellows, but not born again. Dogs are not sheep (believers), and never were sheep. Hence, they turn to their own vomit again (2 Peter 2:22), which is proof positive that they never were saved.

(Phil 3:2 KJV) FURTHER INSIGHT

First – Beware of Dogs!

This first warning is to beware of **"Dogs"** or professing religious leaders, who have never experienced a new birth, but have a mere outward profession. Therefore, they outwardly appear righteous but in fact have a fallen nature and very unclean habits. They promise liberty from corruption to others, while they themselves remain the servants of corruption and therefore unable to offer the gospel. The gospel of redemption is the only answer to change man's sinful nature that was acquired through the fall of Adam in the garden by receiving a new nature through a new birth and thereafter a change in unclean habits. Likewise, the **"sow"** scripturally describes the fallen nature in man in returning to the "muck and mire" after an outward cleansing which is rightfully called a "hogwash."

(2 Peter 2:22 KJV) "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

Beware (G) 991. blepo, blep'-o; a prim. verb; to look at (lit. or fig.): --behold, beware, lie, look (on, to), perceive, regard, see, sight, take heed.

Likewise, the **"sow"** scripturally describes the fallen nature in man in returning to the "muck and mire" after an outward cleansing which is rightfully called a "hogwash."

There are two classes of **"evil workers."** First, every unconverted preacher is an evil worker. Second, every converted preacher who does not judge the old man in himself becomes an evil worker, because he will not teach the whole truth, whether for fear of place, pride of race, or lack of grace. Laborers only who let Christ rule in them do the good works which were ordained for us

to walk in (Eph 2:10) and do them in the right spirit. Evil workers seek their own advantage and glory. They never wholly seek the good of their fellows and the glory of God.

Second – Beware of Evil Workers!

The second warning is against **Evil Workers**. They outwardly have a “**form of godliness**” but inwardly deny the power of the gospel and receiving a new nature or birth. Therefore, they seek to perfect their flesh through their own works by keeping the law or a set of rules or standards. They, in turn, desire others to follow their noble examples. The results are “dead works” as the old creation nature is dead in trespasses and sins. Beware of self-help therapies that are devoid of the gospel of Christ. Even believers may become “**evil workers**” in a measure if they deny the power of the gospel and turn to perfecting their flesh through self-efforts. They may produce a “form of Godliness,” i.e., their own self-righteousness. They may even secretly seek other believers to follow their pious example. These works will not pass the test of “fire,” proving them outward and temporal. The material is described in I Cor 3 as **(1) Wood** – The first Adam to which the ax has been laid to the root. **(2) Hay** – All flesh is as grass and after mowing becomes hay. **(3) Stubble** – Our natural lives “under the sun” which are temporal.

Evil (G) 2556 worthless (G) 4190 refers to depraved or injurious: bad, evil, harm, ill, noisome, wicked.

Workers (G) 2040 (G) G2041 a toiler; a teacher: --labourer, worker (-men).

"The concision" The Greek word "katatomen" means a cutting into, outward, fleshly circumcision, a cutting in pieces. It is used in no other place in the New Testament. **"The concision"** are those who attempt to cut off the self-life by their own efforts; hence, refuse the truth of our death with Christ. Law-keepers, so-called, are the **"concision"** to which Paul refers.

Beware of the Concision!

The doctrine and practices of the “**concision**” are far subtler and more deceptive than the first two warnings of **dogs** and **evil workers**. **Why?** This doctrine of **concision** is cleverly designed to counterfeit the true doctrine of **circumcision**. The **concision** describes those who are “born again,” but thereafter fall into the snare of sparing and trusting in their “good flesh.” They begin the subtle process of **concision**, i.e., their “good flesh” begins to cutoff their “bad flesh” perhaps a little at a time. This is very deceiving as it counterfeits true **circumcision** “**without hands,**” which means our old nature was completely cut off in the death of Christ “**without hands.**” Thereafter, believers are to only reckon, i.e., agree, and yield as God’s workmanship. Both leaders and believers falling into “**concision**” risk becoming a **mere imitation of Christ** rather than a **reproduction, i.e., “Christ in you.”** Believers are eternally accepted in Christ as the gift of God, but sadly they may experience a loss of rewards for of their works, labors, but more tragically they may lose the “prize” at the end of the racecourse.

Concision: (G) 2699 (G) 2596 (to cut); a cutting down (off), i.e., mutilation

Philippians 3:3

For we are the **circumcision**, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

"We are the circumcision," Circumcision refers to the cutting off the old creation through Christ's death on the cross. Circumcision under the old covenant had the cross in view, as Old Testament saints look forward to the cross through sacrifices and offerings. When Jesus died, we all died with Him. When He was circumcised (or cut off) for us, we were cut off too. Therefore, Paul writes that **"we are the circumcision."** It is this absolute, complete, irrevocable, eternal cutting off the

old man, however good, lovely, and pious he may seem to be, that some religious people do not want to admit.

Circumcision in the Old Testament

Circumcision was a ritual initiated through Abraham and, thereafter, practiced by the Nation of Israel. This was a symbol applied to the male reproductive organ as a seal to be carried out on the eighth day following the birth. **The circumcision** began to define Israel as a chosen nation and as a “peculiar people” who were entirely “cut off,” or separate, from the Gentiles, **As the circumcision**, they also received the Covenant of the Law through Moses as a mediator who received it directly from God and delivered it to the children of Israel. Thereafter, Israel became known as the “Circumcision,” in contrast to the Gentile heathen who became known as the Uncircumcision.

Circumcision in the New Testament

Circumcision in the New Testament defined believers, who through the gospel were counted in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. This symbolized the greater “cutting off” of the race of the First Adam, as the old creation, through the death of Christ “without hands.” Thereafter, only those in the Last Adam, through a new birth, both Jew and Gentile, became a new creation in Christ Jesus, known as the Circumcision.

(Col 2:11 KJV) “In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:”