

Romans 2 "Inwardly Jewish"
Romans 2:25-29
Sept 20, 2026

Romans 2:25-29

25 Circumcision benefits you if you observe the law, but if you are a lawbreaker, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. 26 So if an uncircumcised man keeps the law's requirements, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? 27 A man who is physically uncircumcised, but who keeps the law, will judge you who are a lawbreaker in spite of having the letter of the law and circumcision. 28 For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, and true circumcision is not something visible in the flesh. 29 On the contrary, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart—by the Spirit, not the letter. That person's praise is not from people but from God.

The false security of the symbol circumcision.
Why we all need a true circumcision.
How do you know it's happened?

Only faith in what Christ has done creates a secure position.

Genesis 17:10-11

10 This is my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you, which you are to keep: Every one of your males must be circumcised. 11 You must circumcise the flesh of your foreskin to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and you.

Circumcision became the defining outward sign of Israel.

Romans 2:25-26

25 Circumcision benefits you if you observe the law, but if you are a lawbreaker, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. 26 So if an uncircumcised man keeps the law's requirements, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?

A wedding ring.

Romans 2:27

27 A man who is physically uncircumcised, but who keeps the law, will judge you who are a lawbreaker in spite of having the letter of the law and circumcision.

Romans 2:28

28 For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, and true circumcision is not something visible in the flesh.

Hope for a deeper work.

Deuteronomy 30:6

6 The Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants, and you will love him with all your heart and all your soul so that you will live.

God would change our hearts so that we could love Him back.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

25 I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone^[1] and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.

Romans 2:29

On the contrary, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart —by the Spirit, not the letter. That person's praise is not from people but from God.

You can be a Jew.

Colossians 2:11-13

11 You were also circumcised in him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, 12 when you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses.

On the cross Jesus was cut off.

How do you know if this heart circumcision has happened to you?

Galatians 4:6

6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Being a Christian is having God as his Father.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) Have you ever been given a family heirloom? What was it? How might the value of a gift passed down decrease?
- 3.) Romans 2 highlights a Jewish community that had rich symbols and stories but needed a deeper heart change. How might you compare it to an external wedding ring and heart that is not committed?

- 4.) How might the modern church member rely on attendance, a baptism or other religious activity and underestimate the heart?
- 5.) What does it mean to do something but your “heart wasn’t in it?” When is the last time you experienced that? What does Christianity look like if it’s disconnected from the heart?
- 6.) If God cares about our hearts and not just our actions or behaviors, what does that say about Him?
- 7.) Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. What is this Old Testament passage promising?
- 8.) What would be signs that someone has a new heart?