

On which side would Moses have been in Paul’s debate with the “Circumcision Party”?

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Veritas Class
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Sarcophagus of the Twelve Apostles
Ravenna, Italy (AD 5th century)

¹² For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came, he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.

1. Introduction (Acts 15:1, 5)
2. The Significance of Circumcision in Paul’s Thinking
3. The Insignificance of Circumcision in Moses’ Thinking

a. What did Moses say about circumcision?

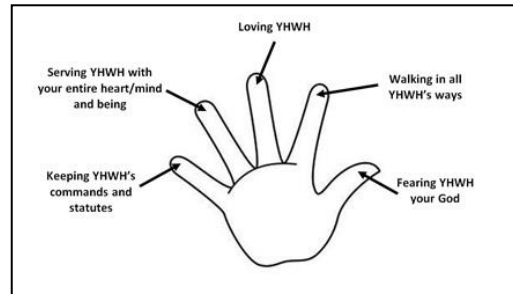
Exod 12:43–48

Lev 12:3; 19:3

b. What did Moses do about circumcision?

Exod 4:24–26

Josh 5:2–9



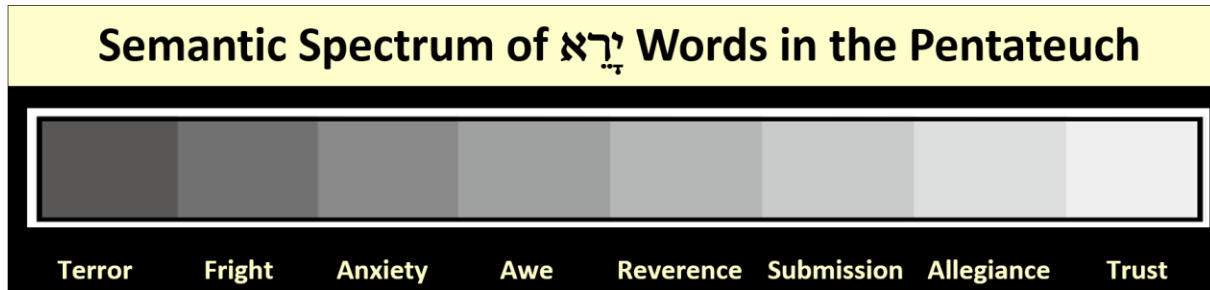
4. If not circumcision, then what?

Deut 10:12–11:1

The Issue		So what does YHWH your God ask (שָׁרַף) of you? (10:12a)		
		I (vv. 12b–15)	II (vv. 16–19)	III (vv. 20–22)
The Requirement		You shall fear YHWH your God, walk in all his ways, demonstrate love for him, and serve YHWH your God with all your heart and with all your being, and keep the commands and statutes of YHWH, which I am commanding you today for your good. (10:12b–13)	Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart and be no longer stubborn. (10:16)	You shall fear YHWH your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. (10:20)
The Basis of the Requirement	The Doxology	Look, to YHWH your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. (10:14)	For <u>YHWH</u> your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (10:17)	He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen. (10:21)
	The Application	Yet YHWH set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. (10:15)	He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and demonstrates love for the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. So demonstrate love for the sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. (10:18–19)	Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now YHWH your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven. (10:22)
The Summary Conclusion		You shall therefore demonstrate love for YHWH your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commands always. (11:1)		

Hearing Galatians with Moses

- (1) True Israelites claimed the Shema as the fundamental declaration of Israelite identity: wholehearted and full-bodied covenant commitment to YHWH.
- (2) True Israelites received the story of Israel's redemption and the gift of the promised land as their story, and they responded to YHWH's grace demonstrated in these formative events with grateful obedience.
- (3) True Israelites were marked by deep-seated and reverential trust in YHWH.



- (4) The Importance of the Torah (Deuteronomy) in this Faith-Building Enterprise
 1. The Torah (speeches of Moses in Deuteronomy) portrays YHWH in gloriously transcendent terms, pointing to a trustworthy deity.
 2. The Torah portrays YHWH in graciously personal terms.
 3. The Torah portrays YHWH as faithful to his word.

5. Conclusion