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Isaiah

"Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

- Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*, p. 47

Eunuchs and foreigners excluded

The LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron: For the generations to come, none of your descendants who has a defect may come near to offer the food of his God. No man who has any defect may come near: no man who is blind, or lame, or disfigured or deformed; no man with a crippled foot or hand, or who is hunchbacked or dwarfed, or who has any eye defect or who has festering or running sores or damaged testicles. No descendent of Aaron the priest who has any defect is to come near to present the offerings made to the LORD by fire.

Leviticus 21:16-22

No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 23:1

No foreigner is to eat of it [Passover]. Any slave you have bought may eat of it after you have cir-

cumcised him, but a temporary resident and a hired worker may not eat of it. Exodus 12:43-44

Identity marker of the new covenant: a circumcised heart in Christ

Under the old Covenant, circumcision was the primary marker of the people of God. It was a physical sign to mark an ethnic and culturally distinct people. But that outward sign was intended to point to an inward reality. In the new covenant in Christ, the inward reality, circumcision of the heart, becomes the covenant sign and replaces its old physical counterpart.

A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.

Romans 2:28-29

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Galatians 5:6

Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything. What counts is a new creation.

Galatians 6:15

In him [Jesus] you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:11-12