



There are mysteries in the life of Christ that often go almost unnoticed in modern sensibilities. They lack the dramatic intensity of the Cross or the glory of the Resurrection. And yet, they contain an immense theological depth capable of illuminating the entire Christian life.

One of these is the **Circumcision of the Lord**.

Far from being a mere Jewish ritual without much relevance, this event holds a powerful truth: **Christ begins to redeem us from the very first days of His life**, not only on Calvary. Here, in silence, without crowds of witnesses, He begins to shed His blood for us.

And that changes everything.

1. A Forgotten... Yet Decisive Mystery

For centuries, the Church solemnly celebrated this mystery on January 1st. It was not just any date: it marked the beginning of the year under the sign of **redemption and the Holy Name of Jesus**.

Today, although the liturgical calendar places emphasis on the motherhood of Mary, the spiritual content of this feast remains fully alive.

Because here we contemplate three essential truths:

- Christ submits to the Law
- Christ sheds His first blood
- Christ receives the Name that saves

Nothing is secondary. Everything is revelation.

2. Christ, Lord of the Law... Submitting to the Law

Circumcision was the sign of belonging to the people of Israel, established by God as the mark of the Covenant. Every Jewish male had to receive it on the eighth day after birth.



But here a key question arises:

Was Christ obligated to undergo this rite?

The answer is clear: **no**.

Christ is not merely a member of the people of Israel. He is:

- The eternal Son of God
- The author of the Law
- Holiness itself

Circumcision was linked to original sin, to humanity's fallen condition. It was a sign of the need for purification.

Christ, however, is innocent.

So why does He submit?

Out of love.

Christ did not come to impose Himself from the outside, but to **enter fully into our condition**. He did not come to abolish the Law arbitrarily, but to fulfill it perfectly.

This gesture reveals something essential:

☐ **God does not save from a distance, but through radical closeness.**

3. The First Blood: The Visible Beginning of Redemption

Here we enter a deeply moving point.

Circumcision involves the shedding of blood.

And this is the **first blood that Christ sheds for us**.

It is not accidental. It is not just a biographical detail. It is a sign.

The tradition of the Church has always seen in this moment:



- The **beginning of the redemptive sacrifice**
- The **anticipation of the Cross**
- The manifestation that Christ truly came to suffer for humanity

Christ does not wait until adulthood. He does not wait for His Passion.

From childhood, in hiddenness, in what seems insignificant, He is already offering Himself.

This carries a deeply relevant lesson for today:

□ **Salvation does not begin in great moments, but in daily fidelity, in the small, in the hidden.**

4. The Name of Jesus: Identity and Mission

In the same act of circumcision, something decisive happens: the Child is given His Name.

It is not a randomly chosen name.

It is a name revealed by God.

Jesus means: *"God saves."*

There is no empty symbolism here. It is a declaration of identity and mission:

- He is the Savior
- He has come to free us from sin
- His very person is salvation

For this reason, the Christian tradition has always had a deep devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus.

Not as a magical formula, but as a living reality.

To invoke His Name is to:

- Recognize who He is
- Trust in His power



- Take refuge in His mercy

In a world that trivializes what is sacred, recovering reverence for the Name of Jesus is a profoundly countercultural act.

5. The True Circumcision: The Heart

Perhaps the most important point for our life today is this.

External circumcision was only a sign. What truly matters has always been interior.

Already in the Old Testament, there was talk of the need for a **circumcision of the heart**.

And what does that mean?

It means:

- Cutting sin out at its root
- Renouncing disordered attachments
- Purifying intention
- Ordering one's life toward God

An external, cultural, or inherited religion is not enough.

The Circumcision of the Lord confronts us with an uncomfortable question:

□ **What in my life needs to be “cut away”?**

It may be:

- A habit
- A relationship
- An attachment
- An inconsistency

And this is where the mystery becomes profoundly relevant.

Because we live in a culture that avoids sacrifice, flees from interior effort, and prefers a



comfortable spirituality.

But the Gospel does not go that way.

6. Beginning the Year with God (and Not Just Empty Resolutions)

That this mystery is celebrated on January 1st is no coincidence.

The Church teaches us to begin the year in a very concrete way:

Not with endless lists of goals...
but with a **real consecration to God**.

This implies:

- Placing the year in His hands
- Asking for the grace to live faithfully
- Re-examining the direction of our life

It is not about “doing more things,” but about **living better oriented**.

Because without God, even the best resolutions lose their meaning.

7. A Lesson for Our Time

The Circumcision of the Lord leaves us with several urgent teachings for today:

1. Humility is God's way

Christ does not impose Himself. He humbles Himself.



2. Obedience is not weakness

It is inner strength and fidelity to God's plan.

3. Salvation passes through sacrifice

There is no redemption without self-giving.

4. The small things matter

God acts in the hidden before the spectacular.

5. Conversion is concrete

It is not an idea, but a real transformation of life.

8. Conclusion: Beginning Again... For Real

This mystery places before us a demanding yet liberating truth:

☐ **Christ has already begun the work in us.
The question is whether we are willing to respond.**

The Circumcision of the Lord is not merely a memory of the past.

It is a present invitation:

- To live more authentically
- To cut away what distances us from God
- To trust more deeply in Christ

And above all, to do something very simple and very difficult at the same time:

to place our entire life under the Name of Jesus.

Because only there—and not in our own strength—
is true salvation found.