

SERMON NOTES

June 17 & 18, 2023

I Have Questions: Is God a Legalistic Rule Maker?

1. Does becoming a Christian mean following someone who arbitrarily tells you what you can and cannot do, can and cannot believe, whether or not it makes sense to you? **Genesis 2: 23, 16-17,9**
Genesis 1:28 | Psalm 119:20,131

2. Where did the idea come from that God is a harsh, legalistic rule maker? **Genesis 3:1-3**

3. What do I do with the weird Laws of the Bible that make no sense? **Deuteronomy 22:10 -11**

4. What do I do with the laws that seem harsh and cruel? **Leviticus 24:19-20 | Matthew 22:37-39**
Galatians 5:13 a

Life Steps

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Monday

Romans 12:1-13

Reflect: How would you define judgmentalism and legalism? How do you respond when someone is a legalistic rule-maker or judgmental?

Prayer: God, help me see others the way you see them and not through the lens of my own misunderstanding of who you are.

Tuesday

Genesis 1:28 | 2:16-18

Reflect: What are the first commandments God gives to humanity? What is the relationship between blessing and God's commands? What parts of the weekend message spoke to you the most?

Prayer: God, increase my desire to live according to your loving commands.

Wednesday

Genesis 3:1-7

Reflect: How do you deal with the struggle of doing what you want versus what God wants for you? Consider a time you did what you wanted instead of what God wanted. How might things have turned out differently if you would have remained obedient to God?

Prayer: God, deliver me from the temptation to ignore what you want for and from my life.

Thursday

1 Timothy 2:1-6

Reflect: In what way does Christ enable us to be free from legalistic rule-making and keeping? How will you ask Jesus to help you break free from your straitjacket?

Prayer: God of freedom, set me from the rules of religion so I might live in the freedom of your loving commands.

Friday

Galatians 5:13-14

Reflect: Why does following God's commands set us free? How does this differ from doing whatever we want?

Prayer: God, use me to set others free from the religious rule makers and enforcers.

Saturday

Exodus 20:3-17

Reflect: What are the Ten Commandments based on? Refer to Deuteronomy 6:5, Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 22:37-40. How has living within the boundaries God has established blessed you?

Prayer: God bless me as I walk in your ways so that I might be a blessing to others.

Sunday

Matthew 22:37-40

Reflect: Meditate upon this passage. How is legalism the deadliest form of sin? How does this passage prove that God is not a judgmental, legalistic rule-maker? What will you do to break free from your rule-keeping "straight jackets?"

Prayer: God, teach me who you really are so I might reflect your perfect image; show me your ways so I might walk in the paths that bring abundant life to the One More.