

Who Makes the Rules?



Colossians 2:16-23

God writes your Rules

- The inspired Word of God, The Bible, is our book of rules.
- Hebrews 1:1-3 – God has spoken
- John 12:48 Words of Jesus will judge us
- In matters where God has given us liberty, we must allow others to have the same liberty.

God writes your Rules

- In today's lesson will study:
- 4 Principles taught in Colossians 2:16-23
- Then we will learn 3 applications to our life.

Do not judge

- **Do not judge others or allow yourself to be judged.**
- **Colossians 2:16-17** 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

Do not judge

- Meat / Drink – daily choices
- Holy Day – annual choices
- New Moon – monthly choices
- Sabbath Days – weekly choices
- Matthew 7:1 Judge not

Do not cheat

- **Do not cheat others or allow yourself to be cheated.**
- **Colossians 2:18** Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind

Do not cheat

- KJV – Beguile = to be robbed of the prize by an umpires decision
- Others can rob us of the prize
- No one is the umpire that disqualifies me from the Christian race
- Do not appoint yourself as umpire for how others live

Do not reject Christ

- **Do not reject Christ as head or claim to be head in His place.**
- **Colossians 2:19** and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

Do not reject Christ

- Some think they are smarter, wiser than Christ.
- Some will claim authority – power – rule – headship in His place.
- Diotrephes – 3 John 9-10
- Some will change the will of God – trying to re-write the Bible.

Do not Write the Rules

- Do not write the rules for others or submit to rules others try to impose.
- Colossians 2:20-23 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using--according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Do not Write the Rules

- We often are experts at rule writing.
- If the Bible commands – Obey
- If man writes the rule – it is for him only.
- **DANGER:** We write rules for others.
- **THEN:** We violate our own rule.

Applications

- Do not let the world write your rules
- About church attendance
- Dress – fashion, hemline
- Music – Movies – Moral Values
- Sex before Marriage
- What is moral / immoral

Applications

- Do not let civil authorities write your rules
- Abortion
- Lottery / Gambling
- Divorce
- Discipline of children
- Homosexuality

Applications

- Do not let fellow Christians write your rules
- Where you can eat
- How to spend money
- Where to work
- When to change channels

Who Writes Your Rules?

- Of course, God does, in the Bible.
- Also – each individual and family has their own rules – for themselves
- This passage reminds us that we can not impose our rules on others.
- And others should not impose their rules on us.