

Four Truths about Rules

By House to House Heart to Heart

Christians are not subject to man-made rules. Paul warned against commandments of men such as, “Do not touch . . . taste . . . handle” (Colossians 2:21–22). Such rules, he said, “have an appearance of wisdom” in man-made religion but are of no value in restraining fleshly indulgence (2:23).

Jesus rebuked those who were “teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9). He never violated a commandment of God, but He almost seemed to go out of His way to demonstrate His refusal to keep the “tradition of the elders” (Matthew 12:1–9; 15:2).

Those who bind man-made rules on the church claim authority that belongs only to God. Those who submit to them as essential to salvation, at least in some instances, doubt the sufficiency of the gospel to save, and fall from grace (Galatians 5:4).

Rules are not the essence of Christianity. Christ is the essence of Christianity. The gospel is good news. God loves us and gave His Son for us. Christ paid the penalty for sin, which we had no ability to pay. This is the essence of Christianity and makes the gospel.

Rules are not the basis of our salvation. To be saved on the basis of keeping rules, it is necessary never to break a rule. When we break a rule of God, we become sinners. A sinner must be forgiven to be saved, and only God can forgive.

We can neither formulate rules that would earn our forgiveness, nor earn our forgiveness by keeping rules God has given. Even if we kept all other rules, or kept the rule we broke at all other times, we would but keep ourselves from further sin, “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10). Keeping rules today would earn no credit to atone for previous sins.

There are conditions given by God that we must meet to be forgiven, but meeting conditions is not the same as keeping all the rules. When we meet the Lord’s conditions because we trust the One who gave them, we are saved by grace through faith. If we think we are saved because we have kept all the rules, we trust ourselves and our own efforts, and we are condemned by our failure to fully comply, for “there is none righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10).

God has rules, and they must be kept. “The royal law” contains rules: “Do not commit adultery . . . Do not murder” (James 2:8–11). They are not arbitrary rules. They are given for our benefit by One who both knows and wants what is best for us, but they are rules. Persistently willful transgressors are condemned, not justified.

He who breaks God’s rules is broken by them. They are not transgressed with impunity.
—Adapted, Cecil May, Jr.

“Let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.” Phil. 3:16

Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Jim and Pat Kirkland hit a cow on the way to Springfield Monday, Pat has a broken sternum and Jim has bruises.
- ♦ Harold Reynolds has to have an angiogram and stress test before they continue with a biopsy.
- ♦ Chris Lemburg’s sister Dawn, who has been taking cancer treatments, has maxed out on her health insurance. She faces losing her medications for the rest of the year. Pray this doesn’t happen.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—Barbara White, Faye Flaughers, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Rene Blackburn.
- ♦ All those battling cancer—Elaine Hunter (Larry’s sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg’s sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Cindy Gibson, Leroy Collins, Fred Strain.
- ♦ Those in GHCC: Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes, Wilbern Uchtman. Jim Hambelton at Thayer. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at River Lodge, Mtn. Home.

Blessings

- ♦ Getting to hear lessons from the best preacher in town every week. We are thankful for Halbert.
- ♦ Having a week of unity in worship and fellowship with other Christians of Ozark County.

*Wisdom is knowing
the right path to
take . . .*

*Integrity is taking
it.*



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
11-5	Bill Cockrum	11-4	Jim & Debra Lane
11-7	Wanda Beard	11-5	Dwight & Joy Banks
11-8	Ashley Hossman	11-16	Tinker & Karen Langston
11-13	Kay Young	11-30	Harold & Mary Ann Reynolds
11-15	Kelly Lemburg	Birthdays	
11-21	Merle Scott	11-24	Clifford Lansdown
11-22	Larry Butler	11-25	Henry Flaucher
11-24	Lincoln Gosdin (2)		

Date	Event	Details
Sat. Nov. 4, 8 a.m.	Breakfast and work day	Some minor repairs needed at church.
Sat. Nov. 4, 6 p.m.	Bonfire devotional and hotdog supper	At Danny Pleasant's new place. Bring lawn chairs.
Sat. Nov. 4	Daylight Savings Time	Set clocks back one hour before bedtime.

Though my world is shaking and uncertain,
I can rest in the arms of
a completely
Unshakable God.

Pray for the safety of the hostages held captive in the Gaza Strip for 22 days. Pray also for the Israelis who lost so many family members in the attack.

November Worship Assignments

	<u>Welcome & Prayer</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Shepherd's Prayer</u>
Today	Heath Maddox	Tinker Langston	David Stevens
11-5	Paul Wade	Titus Smith	Don Luna
11-12	Larry Butler	Spencer Wade	John Abraham
11-19	R. J. Moyers	D. E. Pleasant	Mark Lane
11-26	Ryan Stevens	Vance Hambelton	David Stevens

Song Leader: Titus Smith; John Abraham

Greeters: Tinker & Karen Langston; Dana & Marsha Crisp

The Family News

October 29, 2023

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service Topic: **Wise Up!**

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Prayer

#71, *As the Deer*; #121, *Come Let Us All Unite to Sing*
#375, *Oh, the Depth and the Riches*; Communion Service
#570, *A Beautiful Life*

Scripture Reading by Dylan Abraham, Psalm 111:10

Sermon and Invitation

#915, *Trust and Obey*

#794, *Unto Thee, O Lord*; Shepherd's Prayer

Offering baskets are at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us