

Why do we do it? (Part two)

Some behavior is a mystery. Why are we tempted to do things that we've been told not to do? For some teens, it's standard procedure. When I was that age, if my parents forbade me to do something, it usually heightened my curiosity. I wanted to know why the ban. Mom constantly raised capes for me to charge.

Preachers created long lists of forbidden things, too. In our religious group, "spot cards" (regular playing cards) were a no-no. "Flinch" and Old Maid" were all right because they didn't have those evil spots. Our ministers usually quoted **Colossians 2:21**: "**Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!**" They designated scores of things that Christians shouldn't handle, taste, and touch.

Those zealots clearly misread that passage. That Scripture text actually warn us about religious folks who make rules and say to others, "Don't do this" or "Don't do that." We can make rules for ourselves, but the Lord doesn't want us to bind them on others.

The biggest mystery to me is why we preachers, of all people, do the opposite of what Jesus said we should do. Consider what he said to religious leaders in **Matthew 23:6-9** (LB): "**How they love to sit at the head table at banquets . . .How they enjoy the deference paid to them on the streets, and to be called, 'Rabbi' and 'Master'! Don't let anyone call you that. For only God is your Rabbi and all of you are on the same level as brothers. And don't address anyone here on earth as 'Father,' for only God in heaven should be addressed like that.**"

After reading this, do you wonder what right we preachers have to use titles like Reverend and Father and Pastor? Of all people, why do we do the opposite of what the Scriptures tell us?

Bob Blair