



BREAKING THE ICE

Are you a rule-follower or a rule-breaker? Have you always been that way or did it change as you have grown older?

Have you ever broken the rules and had serious consequences? What happened?

MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Drew talked about the three traps of Christianity, that being a rule-follower, you think you have God figured out and can essentially obey your way into Christianity. But if you are a rule-breaker, you are waiting for God to tell you how much trouble you're in and to call you out.

1. When it comes to your relationship with God, do you view it from a rule-follower or rule-breaker perspective? What makes you view it that way?

Pastor Drew mentioned three things that people tend to think or say about Christianity:

- + Christians are just all about empty rituals and traditions. It's all just ceremonialism.
- + Christians are a bunch of know-it-alls and think they're right about everything like they're better than everyone else.
- + Christianity is just a bunch of rules and things I can't do. Christians are more about what they are against than what they're for.

2. Have you ever believed any of these statements before? Which one? Do you still believe that statement?

We're all human and we have all been guilty of living out some of these statements. But the good news is, God helps us take on these three traps and live a life that reflects more of His love.

Read Colossians 2: 16-23

MAIN CONTENT

God wants us to live freely; a life that is not dependent on rituals and traditions. Not all traditions are bad, but sometimes we are more drawn to the tradition than we are to Jesus. Jesus is so much better than a ritual or tradition. He is available at all times. He asks us to love Him. Rituals and traditions don't offer that.

3. How can you live a life not solely based on the rituals and traditions of Christianity?

The second trap Paul talks about in this passage is Christ-followers who seem to know everything and pride themselves on being better than everyone else. Jesus is the head, He knows everything. We get to be the body and carry out what He asks us to do. We get to continually learn from Him and operate in His will because it's the best for us.

4. Where in your life do you need to lean into what God says about something instead of making all the decisions on your own?

5. Where have you let pride lead you in conversations or actions instead of asking God for His wisdom in the situation?

We can all probably agree that 2020 has been a hard year. No matter what we do or have done, hard things have been happening, and as hard as life is, God is still good. He is still around to show us love, mercy, grace and forgiveness in this broken world.

As we learned a few weeks ago, we become stronger in times of trial. Trials give us more reliance on Him, it's up to us to ask Him for guidance instead of making our own path.

Pastor Drew said, "Spiritual maturity is when the goodness of God is not dependent on our circumstances. He's good based on what he's already done on the cross, not on what's happening to you today."

6. When or how have you based God's goodness as a reflection of your circumstances in life?

God's goodness is not here one day and gone the next. He is dependable, He is trustworthy, He is immovable and unshakeable.

The last trap that Christians can fall into is they are more about what they are against than what they're for. Rules and boundaries are important. God wants to give us boundaries to keep us safe, not to tell us what we can't do.

When we trust Him with the boundaries He has given us, we can flourish for the things He's called us to do rather than worry about the things He asks us to stay away from. He has boundaries because He knows more than us and He knows what is best for us.

7. Where can you see the benefit of setting boundaries in your life either by yourself or by God?

Jesus is so much better than we think or imagine. He is better than the traditions, rules and He knows MUCH more than we do.

8. How can you personally change the narrative of these statements when it comes to helping others find and follow Jesus?

PRAYER

Jesus, Thank you for loving us. Thank you for accepting us no matter where we have messed up. Help us follow you and remember that the goodness of God is not dependent on our circumstances. We don't want to fall into the traps of traditions, rules and thinking we know it all. Please humble us as we follow you so we can show others your true love for them. Amen

ACTION STEPS

- + Continue following along with the Colossians reading.
- + Take inventory of your life and ask yourself where you have fallen into the traps of putting rituals above God, thinking you know it all and perceiving a life full of rules. Ask God to open your eyes to these things and help you live a life filled with his love.