

Those Rules Don't Apply To Me

Sunday, August 25, 2024

10:30 AM

VIDEO: The Armor of God

REVIEW: Spiritual Health Checkup (Series)

1. Asking For A Friend

18 different questions to examine ourselves in the faith

2. One (No Consolation Prizes)

7 rules that ensure we have the one great treasure of a life of faith that the Bible describes, not simply a man made consolation prize that is worth nothing.

3. Memory Problems

13 memory problems we need to work on

4. What Do You See?

13 Checkups on our Spiritual Vision

Today, I want to preach one more message in this series that I have title "Those Rules Don't (Do) Apply to me"

Video: Amazing Grace

As a little boy Andy had decided he didn't have to follow the rules (or the expectations of his father). He believed he could make up his own version of amazing grace. Many times, as believers, we are spiritually sick because we believe we don't have to follow the rules (or expectations) of our Father in heaven. Much like we pick and choose which rules the doctor gives us truly applies to us.

Now let me give you a little background about how this message came about... (See Illustration's below)

Illustrations:

- People whose tags are expired for months or even years
- People who don't follow the rules in the drop off and pick up lines at school
- People who don't follow basic traffic rules
- What rules do you see that people choose not to apply to themselves?

And we began to say "People just make up their own rules" But I felt like God was speaking to my heart to show me that it is no different with His children. They can hear the truth over and over again and even believe that the "rules" are true but somehow also believe that their particular circumstances or situations give them a pass when it comes to particular rules.

Are we guilty of living in such a way that we believe "Those Rules" (whatever that might be for you) DON'T APPLY to us. THEY DO.

Key Text:

1 Samuel 15:1-24

15 Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. 2 This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. 3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.'"

4 So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim—two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand from Judah. 5 Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine. 6 Then he said to the Kenites, "Go away, leave the Amalekites so that I do not destroy you along with them; for you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites moved away from the Amalekites.

7 Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt. 8 He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. 9 But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

10 Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: 11 "I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the Lord all that night.

12 Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, "Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal."

13 When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions."

14 But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

15 Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

16 “Enough!” Samuel said to Saul. “Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night.”
“Tell me,” Saul replied.

17 Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. 18 And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.’ 19 Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?”

20 “But I did obey the Lord,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. 21 The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”

22 But Samuel replied:

“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.”

24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the Lord’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them.

This wasn’t the first time Saul had decided that rules didn’t apply to him...

1 Samuel 10:8

8 “Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do.”

1 Samuel 12:24-25

24 But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. 25 Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will perish.”

1 Samuel 13:8-14

8 He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. 9 So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. 10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

11 "What have you done?" asked Samuel.

Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikdash, 12 I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

13 "You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. 14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

So what are the rules. The 10 commandments is a great place to start

1. Thou shalt not have any [other gods before God](#).
2. Thou shalt not make yourself [an idol](#).
3. Thou shalt not take the [Lord's name in vain](#).
4. Remember the [Sabbath Day](#) and keep it Holy.
5. Honor your Father and Mother.
6. Thou shalt not murder.
7. Thou shalt not commit [adultery](#).
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not testify or [bear false witness](#) against your neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not [covet](#).

We went over a bunch of them a few weeks ago in my message "Asking For A Friend"

Do I believe in the one true God?

Do I believe Jesus is His Son and died for my sins?

Have I repented of my sins and been born again?

Have I confessed Jesus as Lord and invited him to live in my heart?

Have I been baptized in the Holy Spirit?

Have I changed?

Am I different from the world ?

Am I becoming more like Jesus?
What fruit of the spirit is growing in my life?
Am I hungry for God's Word?
Am I sharing my faith with others?
Do I have a desire for spiritual gifts?
Am I consistently saying no to ungodliness?
Am I allowing sin to continue to keep a foothold in my life
Am I Wrestling with the hard stuff?

- Loving my enemies,
- Turning the other cheek,
- Going two miles instead of one,
- Having only one master
- Not worrying about anything,
- Doing good to those who hate us,
- Forgiving seventy times Seven,
- Praying for those who persecute us,
- Taking up our cross and dying daily,
- Only one way to heaven,
- The reality of Hell

Do I weep for the lost?

Do I grieve over Sin in the world?

Do my emotions, attitudes and actions support my Christian Testimony?

Other lists include things like...

- Demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, and self-control.
- Putting Christian values into practice.
- Overcoming challenges.
- Growing in faith.
- Living in a way that is pleasing to God.
- Demonstrating love and peace.
- Focusing on eternal life and making a lasting spiritual impact.
- Living in the presence of God and to the honor and glory of God

Jesus summarized the rules of our faith with two commandments...

Mark 12:29-31

29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

We have a list of all the rules that God has for our lives in His Word...

The other day we were watching some videos of Samantha that she had made when she was 4 and 5 years old... She used to love to get one of our phones and make these short selfie videos... This one she made after watching an animated barbie episode where barbie is helping a young gymnast learn to do a roundoff. She told her the next time you get anxious about performing it, "See it, then be It" So Sam does this cute little video where she is doing a close up of her face and she says "See it, then be it." Then she closes her eyes and does it again and finally one more time.

I got to thinking, we should apply that to the God's Rules for us... "Read it, then Do it."

Micah 6:8

8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

One of the ways people begin to justify their belief that certain rules don't apply to them is with this thought...

Which ones? People then begin to argue that we don't really believe in all the laws of God and that we pick and choose what we want to follow and then they pull out some obscure dietary or ceremonial law and use it as proof.

Exodus 23:19

19 "Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God. "Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk.

Here are some from the Bible's third book, Leviticus:

- Don't eat animals with split hooves (11:4–7).
- Don't eat animals that don't have fins and scales (11:9–10).
- Don't mate two different kinds of animals (19:19).
- Don't plant two different kinds of seed in your field (19:19).
- Don't wear clothing made from two different types of fabric (19:19).
- Don't trim off hair at your temples (19:27).
- Don't trim your beard (19:27).

I suggest to you that Gods rules do not change and that **the principles** of godliness, righteousness, and holiness taught us throughout the Bible are the same.

For instance the rules above speak to the need for us to come out and be separate. Separate from the practices and beliefs of the world. For them that world was represented by Egypt of which they had come out and Canaan where they would live.

A prohibition against imitating the superstitious rites of the idolaters in Egypt, who, at the end of their harvest, seethed a kid in its mother's milk and sprinkled the broth as a magical charm on their gardens and fields, to render them more productive the following season.

Which may suggest why this prohibition was associated with the feast of first fruits or ingathering of the harvest

Jewish rabbinical tradition expounded on this to forbid

1. Cooking meat and milk together;
2. Eating meat that was cooked with milk;
3. Receiving any benefit from such a mixture.

The same could be said of the laws (rules in Leviticus)

The point is God's rules do apply to us... It is important for us to seek them out and then make sure we are applying them

Matthew 7:13-14

13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

1. Even when we don't understand them

Isaiah 55:8-9

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Even when we don't like them
3. Even when they are hard

4. Even when they won't make us popular
5. Even when we think they are not relevant to today

Psalm 73:13

13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence.

Psalm 73:9-11

9 Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.

10 Therefore their people turn to them

and drink up waters in abundance. 11 They say, "How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?"

6. Even when no one else is doing them

VIDEO: Arianna Armour

Armour explains that while she was "James" she would read the Bible, go to church and pray, but she still did not consider herself a Christian, but, rather, an LGBTQ person seeking Jesus.

"Why? Because I wasn't repenting. I was not denying myself. I wasn't following Jesus, I was just seeking Him," she shares.

"I loved Jesus and I believe you can be LGBTQ and love Jesus. I believe you can be a sinner who loves Jesus, but I don't believe you can be a sinner who is a true Christian. I don't believe you can be LGBTQ and be Christian because a Christian is not somebody who says 'I believe'. A Christian is actually someone who lives it out. A Christian is actual a disciple of Jesus Christ," she continued.

"Jesus did not tell us to continue living our sinful lifestyle and everything's fine... I mean what was the point of Him dying? It's not fine, and He tells us all, straight or gay, to repent of our sins," she added.

"I chose to truly follow Jesus and gave up the LGBT lifestyle," she shared.

7. Even when no one is looking

8. Even when we have accomplished great things for God

EX: David with Bathsheba

Conclusion:

None of us are perfect but that's just it. The way we become more of who God wants us to be is not to rewrite the rules nor is it by ignoring them (rules don't apply to me) but rather allowing those rules to confront us and then call us into conformity to the will of God which is accomplished by allowing the Holy Spirit to work His will in us

Philippians 2:9-13

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.