

Man's Rules Versus God's Commands

Mark 7:1-23

When critics argue we must carefully keep certain rules, 1-5

- ◆ This = 2nd “fact-finding” group from Jerusalem, 3:22, cf. Matt. 15:1-11.
- ◆ Key words here are *defile* (2,5,15,18,20,23) and *tradition* (3,5,8,9,13).
Pharisees pushed oral traditions (Mishnah) to safeguard the Law by mandating expanded applications based on Ex. 30:18ff., Lev. 22:16.

What can be the problem with keeping some rules, 6-13

- ◆ Some are hypocritical and even unbiblical, as w/people in Isa. 29:13.
They major on the minors, concealing disregard for God, Lk. 11:42ff.
- ◆ Some provide loopholes which ironically hinder keeping God's commands, as with the “corban” ploy which sidestepped Ex. 20:12.

What might be some traditions / rules we wrongly cling to?

Which central truth helps us know the rules to keep, 14-23

- ◆ Public clarification: true defilement is a heart thing, not a stomach thing!
- ◆ Private clarification: Jesus is upset again w/the 12. Note He is not nullifying kosher foods but is pointing out food can't defile. This will be a big issue: Acts 10-11,15, Rom. 14, Gal. 2:11ff., Col. 2:20-22, I Tim. 4:4.
- ◆ Our real problem that needs addressing is a “heart problem,” since it's from there that all the bad stuff listed in 21, 22 is produced. Jer. 17:9.

Can you see how much our culture is turning its back on the Bible for the rules and traditions of men?

What should Jesus' clarifications about the real source of sinful desires and behaviors mean for us today?

