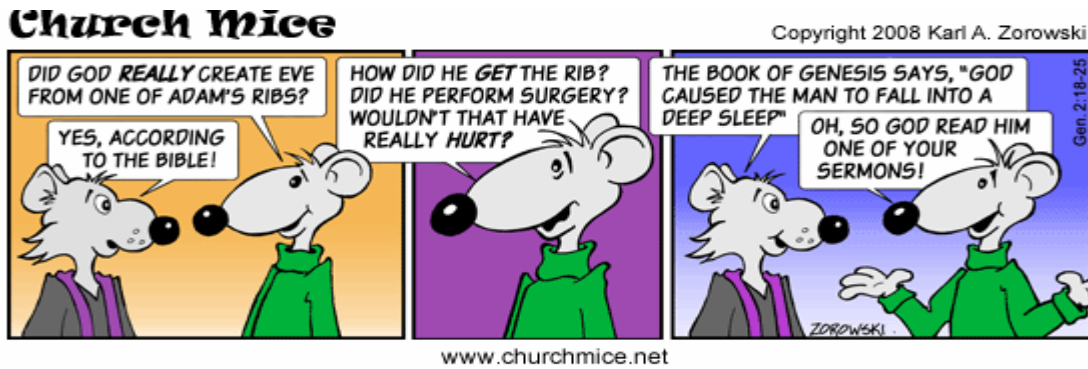


*Are some rules made to be broken... and if so when?
Following God's commands in the "real World."*



1 Samuel 21:1-15 and chapter 22:1-23

The "real" world is sometimes very _____ and _____.

Many times it is difficult to know who you can _____!

Sometimes we are brought together out of _____

to depend upon people we would not normally be close to.

God established all of His commandments and spiritual principals based upon the realities of the _____ and _____ world we live in.

Leviticus 24:8-9 Matthew 12:1-14

Every command, rule, or spiritual principal in the Bible was established to _____ us and not _____ us.

God _____ us and desires us to become complete in Him.

We can use misuse scripture in two main ways:

#1. We can become "legalists" who use scripture as a list of rules that simultaneously kill our freedom and joy in Christ, and make us become hypocrites because we can never really keep all the rules. We then merely try to find ways to circumvent the rules while not getting caught. Acts 15:5-11

#2 We can use our "freedom" in Christ as an excuse to break God's commands and live outside of His spiritual principles. We do not want to become a "legalist" so we interpret everything in scripture by what is expedient or "right" for us. Some people will even pray and quote the Holy Spirit as instructing them to live outside of God's obvious principles.

#1. Does it bring honor and glory to Jesus?

#2. Does it help my brother or sister in Christ keep their walk with God.

Romans 14: 1-23 Is a great chapter to read if you are struggle ling with how to follow Certain spiritual principles taught in scripture.

God's spiritual principals do not change, but sometimes there are "cultural norms" that were followed in the Bible that were not commandments. They were followed by the church because they were the right thing at the time. It is a very tricky thing sometimes to determine what are immutable commandments such as "Thou shall not murder" or basic principles such as salvation by grace and the bodily resurrection of Jesus etc which are for any culture any time, verses concepts which were taught and followed by the church which may not apply to our culture or church today. For example many churches still teach that "women should only have long hair, wear dresses, no make up, and can not speak in church, etc." based upon teachings of the Apostle Paul. (1 Corinthians 11:1-15) Questions such as should we worship on Sunday or Saturday, can we drink alcohol, what can we eat or not eat, musical instruments in church and many more are all very controversial and up to interpretation today. I as a pastor strive to err on the side of interpreting the scriptures literally, and not adapt scripture to fit every change in our pop culture. Yet our church always attempts to use the grace and freedom of the believer to help us in following scripture. The fact is that there are some scriptures that we will never know who has the correct interpretation until we get to heaven and ask the Lord.

We therefore should be like the Bereans in Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

1 Corinthians 10:32-33

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all [men] in all [things], not seeking mine own profit, but the [profit] of many, that they may be saved.

Put God and others first before your own wants and desires!