

How to NOT be a Legalist

Mark 7:1-13

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him. ² They observed that some of his disciples were eating bread with unclean—that is, unwashed—hands. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, keeping the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they have washed. And there are many other customs they have received and keep, like the washing of cups, pitchers, kettles, and dining couches.)

⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders, instead of eating bread with ceremonially unclean hands?”

⁶ He answered them, “Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written:

**This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me.**

**⁷ They worship me in vain,
teaching as doctrines human commands.**

⁸ Abandoning the command of God, you hold on to human tradition.” ⁹ He also said to them, “You have a fine way of invalidating God’s command in order to set up your tradition!”¹⁰ For Moses said: Honor your father and your mother; and Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must be put to death. ¹¹ But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or mother: Whatever benefit you might have received from me is *corban*’” (that is, an offering devoted to God), ¹² “you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. ¹³ You nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many other similar things.”

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- Don't excuse your disobedience.

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- God's grace is greater than your goodness.
- Worship for the approval of God and not man.
- Allow God's Word to always have the final say.
- Honestly practice confession and repentance.