

Heart Check: The Revealing Questions of Jesus

"Why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?"

Matthew 15:1-20

15:3-6a *Why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God commanded, "Honor your father and your mother," (Exodus 20:12) and, "Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die." (Exodus 21:17) But you say, "If anyone tells his father or his mother, 'What you would have gained from me is given to God,' he need not honor his father."*

Background: In the Law of God (**Leviticus 27:9, 16**), provision was made for a person to take items used for common, everyday life and devote them to God for sacred use only. Over the centuries that followed, a tradition developed that applied this provision with a creative twist. In the beginning, the reason may have been legitimate, but by Jesus' day it was being used in a most egregious way. As a pretext for greed, a person could avoid having to support his aged parents by declaring that his possessions were "Corban," or "a gift devoted to God." There was no real intention to surrender these assets to the temple, but it released the person from any legal obligation to support an ailing parent.

15:6b-7a *So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. You hypocrites!*

Tradition gone bad...

..._____ religion. (15:7b-9)

...raises up _____ standards by which a person's spirituality is _____.
(15:10-11)

Legalism is when the _____ of truth becomes the _____ itself.

...is empowered by _____ and _____. (15:12)

Four Core Values of Christian Liberty

- The Authority of _____
- The Leading of the _____ and the Longings of Our _____
- _____
- _____

Looking to the future:

- We must never let our _____ down.

Our _____ must never change, but our _____ will always need to.

- There lurks within each of us a propensity to _____ with the methods and activities he has blessed.

John 17:17

"Sanctify them by your truth. Your Word is truth."

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15:6b-7a *So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. You hypocrites!*

Tradition gone bad...

...**externalizes** religion. (15:7b-9)

...raises up **false** standards by which a person's spirituality is **judged**. (15:10-11)

*Legalism is when the **application** of truth becomes the **truth** itself.*

...is empowered by **fear** and **control**. (15:12)

Four Core Values of Christian Liberty

- The Authority of **Scripture**
- The Leading of the **Holy Spirit** and the Longings of Our **New Heart**
- **Wisdom**
- **Creativity**

Looking to the future:

- We must never let our **guard** down.

*Our **message** must never change, but our **methods** will always need to.*

- There lurks within each of us a propensity to **replace God** with the methods and activities he has blessed.

John 17:17

"Sanctify them by your truth. Your Word is truth."