

Free From Rules

1. Living a life free from religion

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Colossians 2:16-17

What is “therefore” “there-fore”?

- Because you have been given the fullness of Christ.
 - Because you have been made alive in Christ.
 - Because Christ forgave all your sin.
 - Because Christ is supreme over all things.
- **Therefore “do not let anyone judge you”.**
- Paul is not saying - try and stop people from judging you.
 - Paul is not laying down a blanket statement that no one can judge us for anything we do -- nor are we to judge anyone for anything they do in relation to morality and ethics.
- Paul is saying “do not let anyone judge your salvation,” “do not let anyone judge the work Christ did in your life,” do not let anyone tell you that what Christ has done in your life is not enough.

Religious people focus on and follow outward rules in their attempt to please God.

The bible clearly teaches there is nothing we can do to please God.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Christianity is not a religion.

Christianity is a “relationship” that is based completely on what Jesus Christ has done for us.

People like to follow religious rules instead of being in a relationship because:

- ✓ Rules allow us to justify why it is okay for us to turn a blind eye to the lost and hurting people around us.
- ✓ Rules rationalize for us why we do not need to be in relationship with those people we are the most uncomfortable around.
- ✓ Rules give us excuses for why we do not have to do the good we know we should do.

Paul is telling us in verse 16-17 do not let anyone judge your salvation that is based on a relationship with Christ and turn it into a religion that is based on rules.

2. Freedom from unfair Umpires.

Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. ¹⁹ He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. Colossians 2:18-19

Do not let unfair, unbalanced, unchallenged umpires disqualify you for the prize that Christ has won on your behalf.

3. Freedom from Basic Worldly Principles.

Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: ²¹ “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? ²² These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. ²³ Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence. Colossians 2:20-23

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-29