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Is Jesus a Lawbreaker?

Reflections [Covenant and Doctrine](#) 11 February 2016

Mark 2:27

Christianity, as it evolved over the past two thousand years, has, like other religions of the world, developed a number of traditions and practices. These traditions, however, differ from denomination to denomination, and at times even within the same denomination. Some of these are God-desired, but a large majority are created out of convenience.

It may appear, from a reading of the Gospels, that Jesus flouted most of the established laws and traditions. The fact of the matter is that Jesus practised the principle involved, rather than the practice prescribed by man. That is exactly what He meant when He said, "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

We often find ourselves at a crossroads when it comes to Church traditions and practices. We need not be. By not following something, one may harbour a feeling of guilt. The basic principle Jesus professed is the principle of love, which makes love the highest rule and tradition of all. At the same time, it moves Christians towards personal sacrifice, discipline, and responsibility — not easy to practise, but nevertheless possible. When you are confronted by such rules and traditions, ask yourself four questions. Does the rule or tradition serve God's purpose? Does it reveal God's character? Does it help people come into God's family, or does it keep them out of it? Does it have biblical roots that can be supported in the context of the whole of Scripture? A good rule or tradition should pass all four tests. Try this, and you will not remain in doubt. Remember, Jesus never wanted to encumber us with rules and traditions that would weigh us down, making our lives miserable and guilt-ridden. He wants us free of any such baggage, and focused on Him with a clear heart. Amen.

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