

Small Groups Study Guide:

Read the entire Passage first: Mark 2:23-28

- Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
- What did God speak to you during the sermon?
- Have you ever been around someone who has used the letter of the law to hurt others? (they are consistently judgmental or legalistic)? What was it like being around them and how did they impact their family and friends?

We are to walk like Jesus walked

All the commands of God were given as a blessing

The problem starts when the blessing becomes a burden

The Spirit of the law takes priority over the letter of the law

We are to do the right thing, the right way

We are to work from rest, not work towards rest

We are to do the right thing, the right way, with the right heart

Doing the right thing the right way, with the wrong heart, makes it the wrong thing

Read Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

This weekend Pastor Shannon mentioned that it’s okay to have personal “extra fences” for ourselves, but we need to be careful not to expect others to live by those same rules.

- What blessings of God have you turned into a burden in your own life, or the lives of those you influence?

In this week’s study questions, we’re going to do another circle/highlight/underline

1. Circle / highlight any words or phrases that catch your attention.
2. Underline the verse you see as most important to remember.
3. Put an X next to anything that confuses you.

We will study how to address the kinds of issues that often divide Christians.

Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another

14 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. **2** One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. **3** Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. **4** Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. **5** One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. **6** The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. **7** For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. **8** For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. **10** Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; **11** for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess^[b] to God.”

12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Do Not Cause Another to Stumble

13 Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. **14** I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. **15** For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. **16** So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. **17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **18** Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. **19** So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

20 Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. **21** It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. **22** The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. **23** But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

What issues is the church in Rome dealing with that are causing dissention?

What are some suggestions Paul has for how the Roman church could work through the issues so unity can be restored?

What is the ONE thing God is asking you to do this week?