

Breaking Down the Walls

Rule Followers and Rule Breakers!

There is a difference between God's stated will and following man made rules!

*** Psalm 119:11 *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."*[NIV]

*** 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*[NIV]

*** Acts 4:19-20 *"Peter and John replied, 'Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.'"*[NIV]

*** Luke 10:25-28 *"On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."*[NIV]

Jesus is not saying that a person can be saved by being good enough!

*** Romans 3:20 *"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin."*[NIV]

*** Luke 10:29 *"But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'"*[NIV]

*** Luke 10:30 *"In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.'"*[NIV]

*** Luke 10:31-32 *"A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side."*[NIV]

They saw the need, they saw the injustice and they chose to ignore him!

*** Luke 10:33-35 *"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'"*[NIV]

*** Luke 10:36-37 *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*[NIV]

"Oh, I don't reject your Christ! I love your Christ. It's just that so many of you Christians are so unlike your Christ." [*Top Ten Qualities of a Great Leader* by Phil Pringle]

*** John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*[NIV]

When God looks at the world, He doesn't see color or culture or religion, He sees a World
that He died to save!

We, Christ-followers (of all people) must break down those walls!

To love God – we must love everyone - like God!

*** Ephesians 2:13-14, 18 *"But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us."¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us."*[NLT]

Love Wins!

*** Luke 10:36-37 *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*[NIV]