**Do Christians Have To Follow Rules?**

I heard a Bible radio program recently where the preacher said it was not so important that a Christian follow all the rules in the Bible, the main thing is that you love God. And then I heard my friend Tommy Thrasher preach a good lesson refuting that concept. I thought I might reiterate some of Tommy’s points here …

First John 14:15 says “If ye love me, keep my commandments” – so if a Christian loves God he will keep the rules.

From the beginning of time, God expected mankind to follow His rules – Gen 2:17 – “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

What about in Josh 6 - when God told the Israelites to walk around Jericho once a day for six days and then seven times on the seventh day, did they have to obey those rules for God to knock the walls down?

The ten commandments were instituted in Exod 20. Did God expect the Israelites to obey those ten “rules”? – for example, that shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not commit adultery?

Lev 10:1-2 reads “And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.” Nadab and Abihu worshipped God, but not according to God’s rules, and so God was very displeased, wasn’t He? Does the congregation you attend worship God according to God’s rules on how He want us to worship Him? Or do they just do what they like, or what they think will bring in the most people?

God had made a rule that no man was to touch the ark of the covenant with human hand, and when Uzzah touched the ark in I Chron 13:7-10 (in order to steady it to keep it from falling and busting to smithereens), he was struck dead. Evidently it is important to God that we follow His rules. If God said not to do something, even if we think it will help God, we still shouldn’t do it.

Heb 5:9 reads “And being made perfect, he (Jesus) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” Doesn’t that verse prove we have to obey all New Testament rules in order to receive eternal salvation?

Matt 7:21 reads “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Doesn’t that indicate that only those who keep God’s rules will go to heaven?

Rev 22:14 reads “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” So it’s clear we must keep God’s commandments (rules) in order to go to heaven.

Conclusion: It is super important to serve God by submitting to His rules.