

Bible chat for week starting 8 8 21

A) Share your responses to this question raised in the sermon: On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you feel about rule breaking?

1. I always follow the rules to the letter
2. I start with the rules, but will sometimes tweak them a little by using my own judgment
3. My choices are typically a balance between respect for the rules and respect for my own sense of what is right
4. I start with my own judgment, but make some reference to the rules just to check I am not way off course
5. I always follow my own judgment irrespective of the rules.

B) The sermon also listed some religious rules that were common in church life until relatively recently? Do you recognise them? Share to what extent you will still follow each one, and why:

1. Don't go shopping on a Sunday.
2. Divorced people may not remarry in church.
3. A woman may not give spiritual leadership to men.
4. Women should wear hats in worship.
5. Christians should never smoke or drink.
6. Practising gay people should not become church members
7. Couples should never have sex before marriage.

C) Read Luke 6: 1 - 7

1. Jesus is challenged because his disciples are breaking a rule, according to the Pharisees.
2. What rule was being broken, according to them? Do you think their actions were really breaking the Law?
3. Jesus quotes an Old Testament story about David and his men. What is the essence of his argument?
4. What does Jesus mean by calling himself 'Lord of the Sabbath'?

D) Read Luke 6: 6 - 11

1. Do the Pharisees and teachers of the Law have a point in their concern about Sabbath breaking here? Do you have any sympathy with their point of view?
2. Why does Jesus not wait till the next day to heal the man?
3. Could the questions of verse 9 might be applied to any rule? What are the dangers in doing that?

E) David said in his sermon that we should respect rules and laws, but first of all the church was a family, and we should never forget that. In our modern day world church must take note of legitimate rules concerning health and safety, data protection and charity law.

1. Discuss: Is there any risk that we give laws and rules undue prominence and forget we are first of all God's beloved children?
2. Can you think of a situation where we might consciously choose to contravene a Law or lesser rule as an act of Christian discipleship or witness?