

Beautiful on The Outside

Luke 9:23 (NIV 1984)

Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Gandhi: “I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.”

John 8:3-11 (NIV 1984)

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

1) Rules Can Be Cumbersome

Rules cannot save anyone, only faith in Jesus produces salvation.

John 8:7 (NIV 1984)

“When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Verse 11

“Neither do I condemn you. You go now & leave your life of sin.”

2) The Rules Don't Inspire Grace

Matthew 11:28 (NIV 1984)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Marriage has written and unwritten rules...

I said “I DO” that I would:

1. Be faithful to her, as long as we both live I am going to be hers alone.
2. To provide for her, I'm going to meet her needs.
3. To be committed to her, for better or for worse.

There are other rules I didn't know about that have since been established...

1. I am to be sure her car starts every time she turns the key.
2. I am to share the remote control.
3. I am to say out loud what I am thinking, not just look at her and grin.

John 14:15 (NIV 1984)

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

Augustine said, “Who can be good, if not made so by loving? . . . Love **God** and do as you please.”

3) The Rules Don't **Keep Us Around**

Matthew 11:28 (NIV 1984)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Obedience is an **outflow** of faith.

Romans 3:23 (NIV 1984)

....for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..

Matthew 23: 27 (NIV 1984)

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. ²⁸ In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”