

The New Way of Grace

Mark 2:18-22

I. Fasting – The problem of Legalistic Traditions: Defining spirituality by what we *don't do* (Mark 2:18-20).

- A. The Fasting Issue of Jewish culture: Jesus didn't conform to the regular "godly" fasting (2 times/week – 2:18).
- Spirituality is not defined by what we *don't do*.
- B. The Fasting Answer of Jesus: Jesus said you don't mourn when the bridegroom is present (2:19-20).
- Spirituality is better defined as "enjoying the presence of Christ."

Living by Grace or Legalism?

1. **Legalistic Obedience**: I don't think godly Christians should _____; I don't _____; Therefore I must be godly.
 - And those who do these things must not be as godly as me.
2. **Grace/Relationship-based Obedience**: I love and enjoy fellowship with Christ; _____ prevents or hinders my relationship with Christ; Therefore I choose not to _____.
 - I can't know the closeness of another person's relationship with God. Therefore I will pray for them if I am concerned about their choices and not assume they are less spiritual.

II. Patches and Wineskins – Law and Grace don't Mix: Making choices in the new way of grace based on our relationship to God (Mark 2:21-22)

- A. The Picture of New patches on Old clothes (21)
B. The Picture of New wine in Old Wineskins (22)

- *God's foremost calling for your life is a passionate and deepening love affair with His Son. When this is in place, God's standards will take care of themselves.*

Dwight Edwards (*Experiencing Christ Within*, Waterbrook Press)