

MARK

“BAD FENCES & DISTANT HEARTS”

MARK 7:1-13

Eric M. Hine Millersville Bible Church May 3, 2026

He [Jesus] replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

Mark 7:6-8

LEGALISM (in context) = The attempt to _____ another’s _____ where God has left them _____.

FOUR CAN'TS FOR THE TRUE BELIEVER:

1. **CAN'T** _____ man-made _____ above God’s rules.
 - ◆ Every time we _____ to God’s requirements, we actually _____ from them.
 - ◆ Must understand the difference between _____ rules and _____ rules.
2. **CAN'T** look for _____ in God’s commands.
 - ◆ Some things are _____ and _____.

3. **CAN'T** remain _____ when our _____ are confronted by the Word of God.
4. **CAN'T** be _____ or intellectually _____.
 - ◆ We must _____ personal _____.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS & EXHORTATION:

- ★ In what ways have you been elevating man-made rules above God’s rules?
- ★ In what ways does your inward person (thoughts & motivations), not match up to the standard God has communicated in His Word?
- ★ Are you clear on the convictions you have set up for yourself, based on God’s Word? See if you can articulate one of your strongly held personal convictions (debatable issue) to another person without trying to convince him or her they must do the same.

“What to Do in the Gray Areas”
by John MacArthur



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Mark 7:6-8

LEGALISM (in context) = The attempt to regulate another’s conscience where God has left them free.

FOUR CAN'TS FOR THE TRUE BELIEVER:

1. **CAN'T** elevate man-made rules above God’s rules.
 - ◆ Every time we add to God’s requirements, we actually subtract from them.
 - ◆ Must understand the difference between House rules and God’s rules.
2. **CAN'T** look for loopholes in God’s commands.
 - ◆ Some things are black and white.

3. **CAN'T** remain indifferent when our traditions are confronted by the Word of God.
4. **CAN'T** be spiritually or intellectually lazy.
 - ◆ We must develop personal convictions.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS & EXHORTATION:

- ★ In what ways have you been elevating man-made rules above God’s rules?
- ★ In what ways does your inward person (thoughts & motivations), not match up to the standard God has communicated in His Word?
- ★ Are you clear on the convictions you have set up for yourself, based on God’s Word? See if you can articulate one of your strongly held personal convictions (debatable issue) to another person without trying to convince him or her they must do the same.

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