

Live Loved



Love Rules

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Dan McEvoy

Q—Have you ever tried to earn someone's love?

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!" Matthew 15:1–2 (NIV)

Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God,' they are not to 'honor their father or mother' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition."

Matthew 15:3–6 (NIV)

⇒ **Jesus doesn't like it when we use his Father's words to _____ doing his Father's will.**

⇒ **Love doesn't _____ for a way out, but a way in.**

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Matthew 5:17 (NIV)

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:35–40 (NIV)

"You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: '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.'" Matthew 15:7–9 (NIV)

"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34–35 (NIV)

⇒ **Let's let love be our _____.**

Q—Are you letting God's love rule over you?

ANSWER KEY: avoid, look, rule



Study & Discussion for Your Next Small Group

Theme: *'Cause It's Tradition*

Warm Up: What tradition did you observe as a child that you have tried to keep up, and why is this tradition so meaningful to you? Or what is something you did that to this day you don't

know the purpose of, but your family kept as a tradition or practice?

Sermon Response: What impacted you most from Sunday's message?

Read Together: Matthew 15:1-9

Discuss Together:

- Why does it seem Jesus is harsh in response to this group of religious leaders?
- How does Jesus support his charge of hypocrisy? What do you think they were doing that called for such a direct approach?
- What does the Isaiah prophecy say to the Pharisees or to all religious people today? How is this so easy to do today?

Read Together: Matthew 22:35-40, John 13:34-35

Discuss Together:

- How does Jesus answer the question of what is the greatest commandment, and why?
- How might the person asking be surprised by Jesus saying "and the second is like it: 'love your neighbor as yourself'"?
- How does our love fulfill all the commandments?
- Why do you think love is the greatest identifier to show that we are his followers?
- How can we let love be our rule in a lost, love-starved world that now judges us because of the history of the church being judgmental?

Pray Together: Take time to share the good things God is doing in your life as well as prayer requests you have.