



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – March 29, 2026

To Know Christ...

Working on the Sabbath was forbidden in the Law. **“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work ...”** (Exodus 20:8-10) Yet the Pharisees added their own opinions in addition to God’s commandment and condemned the innocent who broke their traditions. When Jesus broke their traditions, they sought to destroy Him. (Matthew 12:1-14)

I recently had a brother in Christ (in another state) tell me that anyone who celebrates Christmas is condemned. It certainly piqued my curiosity. I asked him what Scriptures led him to pass such a harsh judgment. He could not show me any passages that pointed to his judgment. I shared two verses from Romans in the context of judging opinions: **“Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.”** (14:4-5) One brother or sister in Christ may celebrate birthdays, religious holidays, or even the Sabbath. That is for them to be fully convinced in their own mind, but they do not have the freedom to judge the servant of the Lord Jesus. Nor do we have the freedom to look down on them for their opinion. They do not serve us; they serve the Lord.

People often enjoy condemning others today as the Pharisees did back then. They were so full of rage that they sought to destroy Jesus. Are we the same? When we seek to judge others according to our traditions that have been handed down from our opinions, we stand opposed to the Lord’s teachings. We can even sin against Christ. (1 Corinthians 8:12) We operate as if we are the Lord. Are there traditions or opinions we use to condemn others when we have no genuine Scriptures to let the Lord speak? That is what the Pharisees did, too. Listen to Jesus’ words ... **“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”** (Matthew 5:20) I’m thankful the Lord freed us from the Sabbath. (Colossians 2:16) And we can rest safely in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Carey Terry