

The Seventh Day: The Christian's Responsibility

The Sabbath day is a well discussed issue among Christians. What do we do concerning the Sabbath? Are we to continue to observe it as the Jews did? Does Sunday become the Christian Sabbath? Is it to be ignored completely? Lets look at what the New Testament teaches concerning the Sabbath. We will look at what is directly taught concerning the Sabbath and then some principles to help us decide what we should do concerning the Sabbath.

I. What does the New Testament _____ concerning the Sabbath?

- The disciples _____ on the Sabbath

Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5

- Jesus _____ a man on the Sabbath

Mark 3:1-5; Luke 6:6-10

- Jesus _____ a woman on the Sabbath

Luke 13:10-16

- Jesus taught concerning _____ on the Sabbath

Luke 14:1-6

- Jesus taught on _____ on the Sabbath

Jesus does not teach to disregard the Sabbath, but seems to correct many misconceptions which the Jews had concerning what could or could not be done on the Sabbath. Does this mean we should keep the Sabbath still? We must remember that Jesus' teachings we still to those under the law, because he had not gone to the cross as of yet.

II. Why should we or should we not _____ the Sabbath?

A. The New Testament does not _____ the Christian to observe the Sabbath

B. The early _____ met together on Sunday

Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

C. The Jerusalem _____ did not address the Sabbath

Acts 15:23-29

D. We are not to _____ someone for keeping the Sabbath

Colossians 2:16-17 ¹⁶ So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷ which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

E. The principle of Individual Soul _____ gives us a choice

1 Corinthians 10:23-33; Romans 14:1-14

When it come to the Sabbath, the New Testament seems to give us liberty as to if and how we observe it. Since it is not a direct command to us, we need to be convinced in our own minds whether or not we keep the Sabbath.

Conclusion:

Genesis 2 God speaks of blessing and sanctifying the seventh day, but does not give Adam a command to observe the Sabbath:

Genesis 2:2-3 ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

The first commands concerning the Sabbath do not occur until Exodus and are given in the law or directly to Israel. In the New Testament, the church is never commanded to keep the Sabbath.

It would seem that the decision to observe the seventh day as a Sabbath day is a decision that each individual would have to make for themselves. Whether you choose to observe the Sabbath or not, you need to be convinced in your own mind. However, no where does scripture indicate that Sunday has become the Christian Sabbath,

On the other hand, while God does not command in Genesis 2, He does set up a principle of rest that creation has as an example. We need to take time to stop our activity, no matter how necessary and important it is, and give our time to God.