

## Asking for a Friend

### Questions and Answers (Part 5)

#### I. What Can I Do On the “Lord’s Day?”

- A. The expression, “The Lord’s Day” is only mentioned once in the Bible (Revelation 1:10).
- B. The Old Testament enjoined an observance of the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week (Saturday), and it was called the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11).
- C. Concerning the Sabbath, God gave the Israelites specific instructions how to observe that day and punishment if they didn’t (Exodus 31:12-18).
- D. But, with the death of Jesus, the law was done away/completed (Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14; Romans 7:6).
- E. With the abolition of the Sabbath, many people concluded that Sunday is the “Christian Sabbath.”
- F. However, consider the following truths.
  - 1. While Sunday (i.e., the Lord’s Day) is a day of worship (Acts 20:7), there is no command regarding what else we may do on that day.
  - 2. Calling it the “Lord’s Day” doesn’t imply we can’t go about our normal activities, for every day is lived to the Lord (Romans 14:5-8).
- G. Because of the lack of understanding surrounding the Sabbath, some Christians have, out of deference, refrained from work on Sunday.

#### II. Does Mental Illness Excuse Disobedience to God?

- A. The answer to this question is “yes and no.”
- B. It depends on the definition of “mental illness.”
- C. There are many forms of mental illness from which people suffer.
  - 1. Phobias are forms of mental illnesses.
    - a. Glossophobia – Fear of public speaking.
    - b. Globophobia – Fear of balloons.
  - 2. Schizophrenia - A mental disorder characterized by delusions, hallucinations, disorganized thoughts, speech and behavior.
- D. My point is that some mental illnesses may make you unable to discern between right and wrong while others do not.
- E. Therefore, while some conditions can be easily answered, others will have to be left up to God.

#### III. Can a Homosexual, in Any Way, Go to Heaven?

- A. First let me say that our identity is in Jesus and those who are going to Heaven are Christians.
- B. To answer this person’s question, one must discern between one who is practicing homosexuality or one who does not practice it, but experiences same-sex attraction.
- C. We all have sinful desires, but it’s what we do with those desires.

- D. But I wouldn't identify those people by their sinful desires, but would say they were formerly those things (1 Corinthians 6:9).

#### **IV. Are Tattoos Sinful?**

- A. Can I begin by answering, "Some of them are" (e.g., profanity, indecency, sacrilegious) (1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31).
- B. The New Testament, the law that governs us today, does not address prohibit tattoos.
- C. The Old Testament forbade them because they were connected to idolatry.
  - 1. (Leviticus 19:28).
  - 2. Notice also, the litany of things in this chapter that they were told not to do that we freely do today.
- D. Bogus arguments against tattoos that are sometimes made.
  - 1. The Bible says not to (Leviticus 19:28).
  - 2. Tattoos have roots in idolatry (1 Kings 18:28).
  - 3. It's conforming to the world (Romans 12:2).
  - 4. We don't have a right to alter God's image (Genesis 1:27).
- E. Consideration must be given to one's influence (Romans 14:15-19).

#### **V. How Do You Harmonize Jeremiah 20:13 with Jeremiah 20:14?**

- A. Certainly, there is a stark contrast in these two verses.
- B. In fact, there is a back-and-forth throughout this chapter.
- C. Some scholars say the "praise verse" is misplaced in the chapter.
- D. I believe Jeremiah is experiencing what Paul said – "rejoice in suffering" (Romans 5:3).
- E. I'm not sure Jeremiah is speaking chronologically, with each verse building on the one before, but rather thematically.
- F. Jeremiah borrows from Job to say he felt like Job did (Job 3:3, 10-11).