

**Col 2:20-23 & 3:2**

***Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations-- "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," which all concern things which perish with the using-- according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.***

***Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.***

Don't go there, don't read that, and don't listen to this, stay away from that person. Rules, rules, rules, we as Christians set so many rules for ourselves and others, and we think that by following these rules we are good people and others will see us as religious or good Christians.

Now there are places we shouldn't go to, like a strip club, or things we shouldn't read like a porno magazine. There is music we shouldn't listen to, like music full of profanity and there are people we shouldn't hang out with. But how many times do we take God's word and then set additional rules to it. The religious leaders did this and now there are volumes of books on what the Jews can and can't do.

Are we not doing the same thing to make it appear like we are religious or a good Christian?

† ***These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.***

If you are honest, in reality we are doing it to be men pleasers and even trying to earn our way into heaven. We are saying "Jesus, You died on the cross, but there is more I need to do before You will let me into heaven, because I have all these self imposed rules hat I need to follow before You will accept me."

No, that is so wrong.

Let's get away from the rules of the world and men, and just stick to the bible, when you do then you will, "***Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.***"

† ***Romans 14:16-17 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.***