

Col 2:20-23 (NLT)

You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the evil powers of this world. So why do you keep on following rules of the world, such as, "Don't handle, don't eat, don't touch." Such rules are mere human teaching about things that are gone as soon as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, humility, and severe bodily discipline. But they have no effect when it comes to conquering a person's evil thoughts and desires.

Have we made Christianity a bunch of “don’ts” instead of a bunch of “do’s”?

We say, “*Real Christians don’t drink.*”

Or “*Real Christian’s don’t smoke.*”

How about “*Real Christian women only wear dresses.*” Yes, some churches say that.

Or today we may say “*Real Christians don’t get tattoos.*”

We even go as far as saying “*A real Christian carries his or her bible everywhere they go.*”

But you know what? If you really think that way, then I would like to see in the bible where it says any of that.

A lot of times we will base things upon our own likes and dislikes, or the way we were raised. But it’s not always scriptural.

A perfect example would be drinking. I may have shared this before, but I’ll do it again. I remember watching a DVD of a concert of an awesome worship band that is very popular and a lot of churches sing a lot of their songs in church. Well, in the bonus section of the DVD they were interviewing these guys, because it was their last concert. So after the concert they interviewed them and do you know where they were and what they were doing? Yep they were in a pub and all having a beer.

Notice I said “pub” which would let you know they were not in the good old USA nor were they from the US.

In their culture, it’s ok to have a beer, and in some cultures wine is customary. But I judged these guys based upon what the US thinks about drinking, so we treat it like sin because a lot of churches in the USA tells us that drinking is a sin, or a lot of Christians were just brought up to think that it is. But what does the bible say about it?

† **Eph 5:18** *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.*

But we read it as “do not drink wine” instead of what it says *do not be drunk with wine*

I wonder if we spent more time doing what we were supposed to be doing, if we wouldn’t worry so much about doing the things we’re not supposed to be doing.

Col 2:21-22 *"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?*