

Holidays and Holy Days – Fall 2019

Week 2: NT Fulfillment of the Sabbath / The Lord's Day

Intro: BFC Articles of Faith on The Lord's Day (Article 21)

21-1 The first day of the week has been recognized by the Church as the Lord's Day since apostolic times.¹ We believe, therefore, that it ought to be observed by all believers, voluntarily and in love², as a day set apart as holy to the Lord for the corporate worship of God³, remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord from the dead, and fellowship and mutual encouragement of the saints.

Intro: Westminster Longer Catechism on 4th Commandment (Q. 116, 117)

Q: *What is required in the fourth commandment?*

A: The fourth commandment requireth of all men the sanctifying or keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his word, expressly one whole day in seven; which was the seventh from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, and the first day of the week ever since, and so to continue to the end of the world; which is the Christian sabbath, (Deut. 5:12–14, Gen. 2:2–3, 1 Cor. 16:1–2, Matt. 5:17–18, Isa. 56:2,4,6–7) and in the New Testament called The Lord's day. (Rev. 1:10)

Q: *How is the sabbath or the Lord's day to be sanctified?*

A: The sabbath or Lord's day is to be sanctified by an holy resting all the day, (Exod. 20:8,10) not only from such works as are at all times sinful, but even from such worldly employments and recreations as are on other days lawful; (Exod. 16:25–28, Neh. 13:15–22, Jer. 17:21–22) and making it our delight to spend the whole time (except so much of it as is to be taken up in works of necessity and mercy (Matt. 12:1–13)) in the public and private exercises of God's worship: (Isa. 58:13, Luke 4:16, Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16:1–2, Ps. 92, Isa. 66:23, Lev. 23:3) and, to that end, we are to prepare our hearts, and with such foresight, diligence, and moderation, to dispose and seasonably dispatch our worldly business, that we may be the more free and fit for the duties of that day. (Exod. 20:8,56, Luke 23:54, Exod. 16:22,25-26,29)

Sabbath in the Old Testament

- **Creation Ordnances** (Marriage, Family, Work, Sabbath) – Sabbath: **Genesis 2:1-3**

- **4th Commandment: Exodus 20: 8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-14**
 - Detailed Instructions: Exodus 16, 31, 35; Leviticus 23; Numbers 28; Nehemiah 10, 13; Jeremiah 17;
 - Seriousness / Punishment: Exodus 31: 12-17; Ezekiel 20

Sabbath in Jesus's Day

- **NT Uses:** The word Sabbath used 50 times in the Gospels, 10 in acts...
- **Religious Leaders / Sabbath "Rules":** not work, not pick grain or make food, not walk more than so many steps ...
 - Even today: Jews start Sabbath at sundown after prepare food and light candles, walk to synagogue, not use money
 - Best Case: assure not sin
 - Worst Case: legalistic righteousness
- **Jesus & His Disciples:** Matthew 12:1-14; **Mark 1:21-28, 2:23-3:6** ; Luke 4:16-44, 6:1-11, 14:1-4; John 5:1-18
 - In Synagogue, Teaching on Sabbath
 - Eating Grain on the Sabbath ... Like David
 - Healing on the Sabbath ... Doing Good (as opposed to Pharisees!)
- **How does Jesus "Fulfill" the Sabbath?**
- **What Does it Mean That Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath?**
- **What is Jesus's Point in Saying "The Sabbath is Made for Man, Not Man for the Sabbath"?**

NT on the Sabbath

- **Paul on Sabbath Continuance / Discontinuance**
 - Romans 14:5-9
 - Galatians 4:8-11
 - Colossians 2:16-23
- **NT on Rest**
 - Hebrews 4
 - Matthew 11:28-30
- **One other note: Sabbath originally at the end of the week** (Sundown Friday until Sunday Saturday) – **so Is Sunday ‘the Sabbath’, ‘the Lord’s Day’, or both?**
 - Why did church change day?
 - Focus on Resurrection / New Covenant / Eternal Rest
 - “Number 1 of the Sabbath” / “Marrow after the Sabbath”
 - Precident in Wave Grain, Pentecost, Jubilee ...

The Sabbath for Today

- **How Important is the Sabbath for the Modern Church?**
 - Have to Practice – Sabbath as Law for Today (legalism?)
 - Ought to Practice – Sabbath as Model for Today
 - Helpful Practices – Sabbath Principles for Today
 - Not Practice – Sabbath Repealed (what about eternal Sabbath?)
- **How Can You Embrace God’s Sabbath Today?**

- **John Piper Summary of the Sabbath** (from 2005 Sermon)

Therefore the Sabbath principle was not abandoned by the early church. The shadow of Christ across this weary world still offers shade, namely, the first day of the week—the Lord’s day. And the meaning of that day is that Jesus is risen and Jesus is Lord and Jesus is Creator and Jesus is Redeemer and Jesus is the only place of rest for the soul. It’s a day for worshipping Jesus. It’s a day for saying by what we do and don’t do that Jesus, not our work and not the money we get from our work, is our treasure and our meaning. It is a special day for the honor and the glory of the Lord. A day for mercy and for man.

- **John Piper on Romans 14:4**

So here’s the sum of the matter: Paul is dealing with disagreements over non-essential matters like days and food. Instead of saying, “Don’t sweat the small stuff,” or “Lighten up,” he says, “Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.” He believes people with conviction and decisiveness are better risks than the other kind.

So how does he handle the risk of conflict when lots of people are “fully convinced” that their way is not sinful, and honors God, and is the best way they can see for themselves in this situation?

Step 1: True Christians on Both Sides of These Issues Are Glorifying God in What They Do

Step 2: Things as Opposite as Eating/Not Eating and Death/Life Can Both Honor the Lord

Step 3: Through the Resurrection of Christ, Both the Living and the Dead Can Show the Infinite Value of His Lordship

He boldly asserts that opposite behaviors—eating and not eating—can both show the worth of Christ. To support that radical statement he says its true of the ultimate condition of opposites: life and death. And to support that radical statement he goes to the greatest event in history: “For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.”

The living display the infinite worth of his lordship by valuing him in all his good gifts. The dead display the infinite value of his lordship by valuing him above all his gifts when they are taken away.

Therefore, I do not say to you, “Lighten up.” Or, “Don’t sweat the small stuff.” Rather I say, “Stand in awe of the risen Christ who will get his glory from the living and from the dead and from the eaters and the abstainers and from the day-keepers and the non-day-keepers. Stand in awe of Jesus Christ. **And whatever you do, whether you eat or whether you drink, do all to the glory of Christ** (1 Corinthians 10:31).