

LIMITING JESUS

SLIDE

In this life we have many rules that have either been set by parents, teachers and the government.

- Some parents are stricter than others.
- Some governments will uphold the law strictly.
- Some schools live by tradition which is guided by rules that were put in place at the inception of the school.

SLIDE

We live in a life guided by rules and probably try to push their boundaries now and then.

And it is because we are of this world that we bring these rules into the church and into our relationship with Jesus.

SLIDE

But Pastor Des you told us that there were **no expectations** when we planted Free Chapel!

No expectations on serving the church, as we will not coerce or force you to do anything.

But remember that if you are in a relationship with Jesus then He expects you to live a certain way.

Jesus expects us to live a balanced Christian life in which we learn how He prayed, Fasted and gave, and then do these.

SLIDE

31 things Jesus wants us to do

<http://spiritualinspiration.tumblr.com/post/10166123536/31-things-jesus-wants-us-to-do-1-jesus-wants-us>

Colossians 1:9-14 (NIV)

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

And if you are sold out to Him you will naturally want to serve in His body which He calls His Bride which He will one day return to be united with.

Now the problem is that the rules which have been built into us become a natural part of our lives.

We live by them and expect that every part of our lives whether work, school, home or church that these will be the guiding force.

Sometimes this is not wrong as it gives us boundaries and boundaries are good.

But we put these same boundaries on our relationship with Jesus.

We can't do this or that because Jesus would not like it!

What does He like and what does He not like?

Do you know?

Or is your relationship with Him guided by what you have heard and seen from others who live the "Christian Life"?

I asked a question at Home Church, let me ask it again!

SLIDE

"What do you think Jesus thinks about you?"

Think about this and consider it!

Maybe you don't have a great assessment about yourself because of your past!

SLIDE

- People have put you down!
- They have told you that you will never make as a...
- They have said you are dumb and will never amount to anything.
- They have said that your life will never be successful.

I want to go on record that all of us have had this said to us at some time in our lives.

And because of this...

SLIDE

“Our experience of Jesus is LIMITED most often by the LIMITS we put on Him”

And these LIMITS come from our past, our upbringing or our idea of who Jesus is and how Jesus lived.

SLIDE

What we have done is place a **steel tight border** around us to protect us from the evils of this world BUT the same border is keeping Jesus out.

And this is essentially what the cults and denominations have done –

I am not blaming them but notice that they will tell you that you can only serve God in a certain way – their way.

- They set the rule and the boundaries.
- They set the expectations.

And then if you become a member of the organisation because that's what they are, they will police your relationship to the church and tell you that following their rules are the ways to salvation.

SLIDE

John Eldredge call this “Religious Fog”

What we need is to be released from this lie, because that's what it is.

- A lie that has caused brokenness in many home and relationships.
- A lie that has caused splits in many church's
- A lie that is from the devil himself.

I want to give you Three Steps to freedom from this lie.

SLIDE STEP 1

You have to know and accept that the Finished Work of the cross is a finished work and has accomplished freedom from any lies the devil may test you with.

John 4:34 (NIV)

³⁴ *“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.*

John 17:4 (NIV)

⁴ *I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.*

John 19:30 (NIV)

³⁰ *When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Hebrews 13 (NIV)

²⁰ *Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,* ²¹ *equip you with everything good for **doing his will**, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

1. Hebrews 13 ties the death of our great Shepherd into the duties we owe Him by our lives.
2. What are you doing to live for this Saviour, Who finished the work of your eternal inheritance?
3. If you want to assure your heart that He finished redemption for you, believe and be baptized!

4. Your election can be made sure by diligently adding good works to your faith (2 Peter 1:5-11).

2 Peter 15-11 (NIV)

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

STEP 2

Now knowing that the finished work is done for you personally – dive in to a deeper experience with Jesus.

To do this you have to know what to look for.

Start to scan the scripture and look for Jesus personality, His character and how He dealt with people.

Jesus was human like you and me – look at His humanity and learn from him.

No rules – No Religious Fog – Just going about His father’s will and setting the record straight.

He challenged the religious leaders because what they were doing was forcing people to follow their rules and advising them that God did not work outside of the rules.

Jesus showed them differently.

You see rules require sacrifice and that means boundaries.

Something that Jesus was not interested in.

Matthew 12:1-8 (NIV)

12 At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. ² When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”

*³ He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. ⁵ Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? ⁶ I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. ⁷ If you had known what these words mean, ‘**I desire mercy, not sacrifice,**’ you would not have condemned the innocent. ⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”*

This is the Jesus that you should love and follow!

STEP 3

Now once you have learned about Jesus the human you have to start removing the debris that has piled up and obscured your view of Him.

One of the major challenges for many Christians is that their past life of rules and regulations have made them believe:

- That Jesus does not speak to them, or
- Jesus does not love them.

Another lie.

Getting over this brokenness does not just happen suddenly.

You have to FIRST believe that He will speak to you and love you the way you expect and then as your relationship grows He will change this to How He wants to speak to you.

You see Peter tried this at the Last Supper when he forbade Jesus to wash his feet.

John 13:1-8 (NIV)

13 *It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*

² *The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.* ³ *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;* ⁴ *so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.* ⁵ *After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

⁶ *He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"*

⁷ *Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."*

⁸ *"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."*

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

Instead of trying to tell Jesus what to do and how to talk to you rather pray this prayer.

"Jesus, come in" I give you TOTAL access to every aspect of my life. Come in, Lord. Reveal yourself to me".

Then when you want to hear from Jesus then go and sit at the foot of the cross, see what He has done FOR YOU and then listen for His voice.

Conclusion

Jesus got angry with the religious fog and He did something about it.

John 2 (NIV)

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! **Stop turning my Father's house into a market!**" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

It's time to clear the house of Religious fog because Jesus wants to have a relationship with you that is not guided by a lie.

Amen