

Kingdom Responsibilities are Simple

Religion makes following Jesus in his kingdom very complex and complicated. Take a look at his life and you'll see it was very simple. All he did was operate out of oneness with Father and did what he was instructed to do.

It's amazing. Submission brings freedom and simplicity, but we make out that it's a 'ogre' that puts unreasonable burdens on us. That's not what Jesus exemplified in his submission to Father, and he's our Kingdom prototype.

Jesus gave us no rules, observances and customs to follow – religion has done that to us. He only gave us one maxim – *agapē*.¹ He gave lots of instructions in righteousness and Kingdom living, but that's all.²

NOTE: The use of “commandment” in English translations was put there by religious translators, ignorant of the realities of the Kingdom. (See “Jesus' Commandments”³)

Paul (apart from his Jewish obligations) reinforced this freedom from religion, even marvelling that gentile converts wanted to go back into the bondage of religion⁴.

Jesus gave us the instruction to live the simple Kingdom life that he lived:

Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV) – *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*

Rest is what comes out of simplicity. Complexity and complicated religion brings striving to please God so that rest is elusive and peace is transient.

What did Jesus mean by 'yoke'?

Most preachers and teachers refer back to the previous verse and link the word with the burdens of life. Instead, it should refer to religion as Peter did in the 1st Jerusalem council⁵.

Yoke, which comes from the wooden harness draught animals are secured into when pulling a cart of plough, is actually about religious restrictions as Peter stated. David Putnam explains:

“Jesus was a rabbi, and as a teacher one of his primary responsibilities was to interpret the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) for his followers. The Torah is the holiest of Scriptures to the Jews, and included within it are the Ten Commandments as well as 613 additional laws about worship, cleanliness, marriage, nutrition, and every other aspect of Jewish life. Any given rabbi’s interpretation of the Torah consisted of dozens of hedges⁶, which were additional oral laws or rules designed to protect the Law (this includes the extra 613). A rabbi would have had thousands of little laws or hedges he taught as his interpretation of the Torah, his suggested way of living. This way of living was referred to as that rabbi’s yoke, and every rabbi had a distinctive yoke.”⁷

Religion takes us away from our King and focusses us on activities – relational is replaced with the contractual. This is one of Satan's ploys which he uses via the religious spirit:

1 – John 13:34

2 – “The 50 Commands of Jesus – Summary”

(canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/50-commands-of-jesus-summary.pdf)

3 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/16-jesus-commandments.pdf

4 – Galatians 4:9-10

5 – Acts 15:10

6 – “No Legal Fences Are Required”

(canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/No-Legal-Fences-are-Required.pdf)

7 – David Putman (2010) “Detox: For the Overly Religious” p:12 [e-book]

*“Satan doesn’t want us to live like Jesus or love like Jesus, and he certainly doesn’t want us to leave what Jesus left behind. While Jesus came inviting us into his way in order that we might experience a full life, Satan wants to limit and minimize our lives; he often does this by introducing us to cheap substitutes like religion. The substitute is that which ever so subtly nudges Jesus out of our lives. Over time we replace our relationship 'with Jesus' with a religion 'about Jesus'. We become blind to his truth and numb to his presence.”*⁸

Religion is anything we do to please or placate God and at the same time, appease our conscience. Even approved activities such as church meetings, bible reading, praying and worship singing can become religious if our relationship with our Beloved isn't *numero uno* for us.

The Kingdom is freedom from religion. Paul write about it, but the religious spirit⁹ want to take us back there by veiling our eyes to the liberty we have. (See “Come Out of Bondage”¹⁰)

On one occasion I queried in my spirit what Jesus meant by “My yoke is easy and My burden is light” and the Spirit replied, “**Love him. Listen to him. Obey him.**” Pretty simple.

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8 – David Putman (2010) “Detox: For the Overly Religious” p:8 [e-book]

9 – “Freedom from the Religious Spirit”

(canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Freedom-from-the-Religious-Spirit.pdf)

10 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/23-come-out-of-bondage.pdf