

HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 3/4/2024

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

ONE AT ONE – *Every day this week beginning on Tuesday, March 5 you are encouraged to pray for one minute at one o'clock. This week, ask GOD to expand your influence for GOD over others. Look for opportunities to share your faith to people with whom you have not previously spoken. Watch for the occasions that GOD brings to you someone new to whom you can witness or serve.*

Many Christians think they are following the Bible “to the letter” without fully knowing what the Bible says. Others will make distinctions between what the Old Testament and the New Testament condemn. Then, of course, some pick and choose based on who or what they want to judge negatively while ignoring those things that would touch them personally. Here’s a list of things, mostly from Leviticus, that are condemned for your consideration:

- Home Ownership – Leviticus 25:23 says, “The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is MINE and you reside in MY land as foreigners and strangers.” At the very least, it should help us to see ourselves as stewards of the property on which our homes are built.
- Short Hair – Leviticus 19:26 commands, “Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard.” Orthodox Jewish males still follow this practice today.
- Mistreating Foreigners – Leviticus 19:33-34 states, “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were once foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your GOD.” With all the controversy over immigration and border concerns, this may cause some real discomfort for many.
- Jewelry and Fancy Clothes – In I Timothy 2:9, Paul says, “I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds appropriate for women who profess to worship GOD.” While it doesn’t say false eyelashes or nails, those would likely also be included.
- Cotton Polyester Blends – Leviticus 19:19 says, “Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material.” Many condemn others without awareness of how they themselves are violating the biblical laws. At the very least, before they do, they should check the materials tag in their shirt or blouse.
- Shellfish – In Leviticus 11:10 we are told, “But all creatures of the seas or streams that do not have fins and scales—whether among all the swarming things or among all the other living creatures in the water---you are to regard as unclean.” The eating of lobsters, shrimp, oysters, clams, etc. is considered an abomination.

The bottom line for all of us is that we would do best not to sit in judgment of others. Rather, each person must decide how they wish to honor GOD by how they live, eat, and dress. What GOD desires most is that we live in ways that seek to please and give glory to GOD while recognizing that others may choose differently while pursuing the same goal. Our judgment of others only brings judgment upon ourselves. Seek to shape your life in a fashion that helps you honor GOD and let GOD worry about everyone else.

In CHRIST's love,
Pastor Jeffrey