



## When God Says Do or Don't...

By Gerald Cumby

*Deuteronomy 5:33, "Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess."*

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### **There are essentials and "musts" in the Bible.**

- In other words, a list of dos and don'ts are throughout the Bible which are required responses from the reader (hopefully a "Born Again" Believer) in order to stay in proper relationship with our Holy God.
- Therefore, any specified list of the dos and don'ts in Scripture are to be obeyed without hesitation. This would include those mentioned that are sometimes not even understood by the reader.

Understand...Please! Although there are requirements, it does not necessarily mean that we lose our salvation if we don't fail to obey. It just means that we are "not in a proper relationship with God." We are sitting on the sideline and not in the game.

So, to be in the game and making a difference in life's challenges, we are to do those things God tells us to do and not do those things (sins) which are detrimental to our growing (maturing) in Christ.

**Let me encourage you to guide your life by any and all Scripture with all of your heart, regardless of how anyone else may respond.**

**But when questionable things aren't specified in Scripture, it then becomes a matter of one's personal preference or convictions.**

- ***Of course, this is where the Holy Spirit's work comes in. Since He is living within us, He will guide us into truth through our conscience and our knowledge of Scripture.*** Jesus stated in John 14 that He (the Spirit of Truth) will be given to us since Jesus was going back to the Father.
- ***Jesus left us a Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, which is the Holy Spirit.***
  - ✓ ***His work is to convict, teach and lead us into what is the right thing to do in situations which are not covered in the Word of God.***

*John 14:15-18, "If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> **And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**"*

- ✓ **We can depend on Him. He will always lead us to truth...never to leave us without an out in situations we find ourselves in that are questionable and overwhelming.**

*John 14:25-27, "All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> **But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.** <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

*John 15:26, <sup>26</sup> **"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."***

**Remember, there are many things that we believe that might not be called out and specified in Scripture. However, since we have a HELPER to guide us into truth, we can depend on HIM to awaken our conscience (inner man) to know what is right and approved by God.**

*For instance, does Scripture tell us specifically about the Trinity – The Triune God? Do we really understand the Sovereignty of God? We sometime don't even understand Scripture...like:*

*Revelation 22:10-11, "Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. <sup>11</sup> Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy."*

**Do we even have the brain power to understand the mind of God and how He works?**

*Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

*Someone said, "Not only is the universe stranger than we think; it is stranger than we can think."*

*It's surprising how easily we forget that with God, we're dealing with a person (Spirit) whose intelligence, power, and complexity so far exceed our comprehension that we have no metaphor or superlative that can even remotely do him justice.*

Paul, after eleven chapters of unsurpassed human attempt to explain the most glorious mysteries of salvation, couldn't help but break out in worship of an intelligence so far beyond his:

*"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord?'"* Romans 11:33-34

**God has given His children a wonderful freedom in Christ, which means forgiveness from a sinful past and a shameful lifestyle...but, we have an obligation to stop there.**

*(We don't flaunt a sinful past; We don't promote a sinful past to gain recognition, and we don't use the testimony of a sinful past to exploit and accept money for personal gain).*

The above statement is my personal feelings...What about yours?

*We are to think a change and make a change of those sinful actions and lifestyle so that we can become models of His grace.*

- Being free (forgiven), enjoying our liberty, and allowing others the same enjoyment is a privilege (benefit) of God's grace.
- The gift of grace should open our minds and hearts to see others come to the saving knowledge of Jesus.

**Many people see Christianity as a bunch of rules and guidelines to follow. But Christianity really isn't a religion that forces rules and laws on its followers.**

- ***God does not want robots who are forced to meet His "Dos and Don'ts." He wants His followers to choose to obey (a decision we make), not His.***
- ***We are to be a credit to God's "Dos and Don'ts...an example for others to follow.***
- ***It is not for our glory, but for God's glory and His alone.***

***The Bible describes how we can honor God by choosing to live or behave in certain ways.***

***Before Jesus came, the only way God's chosen people (the Israelites) could be "right" with God is through the sacrifice of an animal.***

- ***The animal's blood would cover the people's sin so that God could accept them.***
- ***God presented His people with some very specific laws to follow.***
- ***Due to the sinful nature of man, the Covenant people (Israelites) did not follow God's law and would fail to follow the "dos and don'ts" found in the Old Covenant.***

***Romans 8 explains that “what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”***

**In the New Covenant, Jesus came as the perfect, final sacrifice; His holy blood doesn't just cover our sins – it purifies us and makes us holy.**

Instead of a list of religious rules, God has given us the Holy Spirit to be our guide as to how to live through a relationship with Jesus.

***Christianity is based on knowing God through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Then God's Spirit puts His laws in our minds and hearts so we know how to honor God through our actions.***

***Titus 2:11-15, “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”***

***God wants His people to enjoy life by keeping the proper spiritual balance.***

**“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.”**

**“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.”**

**“You only live once, but if you do it right ...Once is enough!”**