



## New family, new rules

Every family has rules. Some are conscious and communicated, while others not so much. Some of our family rules are healthy and some come from a place of brokenness, often passed down from generations before us.

A healthy rule might look something like this. You might have had a rule that after a fight you had to communicate your commitment to and love for each other.

On the other hand an unwritten rule or an unconscious pattern in your home might have been that unless you worked 80 hours a week you were a sloth. Maybe your family's unwritten rule was that when conflict arose your family cut the other person off.

Truth is, our families of origin and our immediate families all have a set of guiding rules. The family of God is no different. The question for believers is, whose are you living by?

Anyone who has committed their life to Jesus is now part of a new family with a new set of rules. Discipleship (applying God's guiding principles) is the journey all believers commit to as part of God's amazing family.

Although everyone is significantly influenced by the rules they grew up with — if you are part of God's family, you now commit to live by God's rules.

The wonderful and amazing thing is that God has no rules that are unhealthy. They all lead to a rich life. Oh they aren't all easy, but they are all profitable and worthy of our best effort to live them out.

Now, instead of never resting from work, we remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God (Ex. 20:8).

And instead of conflict causing cut-offs, we commit to bear with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you (Col. 3:13).

Truth is, following Jesus means we no longer have to be in bondage to a broken family of origin rules. Jesus came to set us free to live in the abundance that His rules bring to bear on our lives.

WellSpring! The Lord has cautioned us to guard our heart from the attack of the devil. Many times the enemy's attack is

evident through a lie that deceives us into believing that the broken set of rules we grew up with are best. They never are!

Our defense against the enemy's lie is best thwarted when we reject the rules that contradict the Lord's family rules to which we now belong.

A growing Christian understands they need to give up their old family rules to adopt God's family rule. We don't always do it perfectly, but we strive to love each other well by applying the rules that apply now that we are part of God's family. He knew it wouldn't be easy, but He is so in love with His family and completely committed to its principles. So much so that He gave up His own life so we would be free to live not bound by sin and brokenness of old patterns.

Glad to be part of a new family with new rules,

Pastor Scott