

# ACCIDENTAL PHARISEES

## Why God Doesn't Need Our Help

### GETTING STARTED: Three Things That Luke Assumes We Understand

1 Samuel 21:1-10/ Exodus 20:8-11, Mark 2:27 & Colossians 2:13-17/ Luke 12:1

- ✓ David's Story
- ✓ The Sabbath
- ✓ Pharisees

### SOMETIMES THE RIGHT THING GETS THE WRONG RESPONSE

Luke 6:1-11/ Matthew 12:1-14/ Mark 2:23-3:6

### HOW DID GOD'S SELF-APPOINTED DEFENDERS BECOME HIS ARCHENEMIES?

- ❶ They built extra spiritual **fences** – lots of them – just in case.  
Proverbs 30:5-6/ Colossians 2:20-23
  
- ❷ They turned helpful spiritual **tools** into rigid religious **rules**.  
Romans 14:1-7
  
- ❸ Eventually, their extra-biblical **rules** and **traditions** became more important than God's biblical **commands** and **priorities**.  
Mark 7:1-9
  
- ❹ They became **harsh**, **judgmental** and **arrogant** – and thought God liked (and needed) them that way.  
Micah 6:6-8/ 1 Corinthians 13:1-4/ Matthew 7:1-5/ Luke 18:9-14 & Proverbs 6:16-19

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## Food for Thought for the week of December 12, 2010

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. As we heard this weekend, the Pharisees often placed their cultural teachings and man-made rules on equal footing with the teachings of the Bible. Jesus responded to this practice in Mark 7:1-13. Read it and then answer the questions below.

What does he say are some of the results of elevating tradition and man-made rules to the level of the Bible?

As you look at your own life, are there any areas where you've allowed some tradition or man-made rule to have as much authority as the Bible?

2. Larry mentioned that it's okay to have personal rules for how you live, but we need to be careful not to expect others to live by those same rules. We saw Paul's suggestions in Romans 14:1-23 for working through the kinds of issues that often divide Christians. As you re-read this passage, respond to the statements below.

Identify each of the controversial issues that the Roman church was dealing with and their impact on the church.

Identify the remedies Paul gives to work through the issues so unity can be restored.

If you have ever seen or found yourself in a similar situation, what did you find helpful in the way it was handled? What did you wish would have happened differently based on this passage?

3. As a result of this week's teaching and study, are there any issues you tend to see "black and white" that you may need to allow more room to "agree to disagree" with others? Is there anyone with whom you need to make some amends regarding a past attitude you've had toward them?