

SYLVIA'S CORNER

FREEDOM FROM THE LAW

It's a good feeling, isn't it?

I remember once when I was still in the Mormon Church. After Sacrament Meeting at the Singles Ward in Utah one Sunday, I asked my girlfriend if she would like to go to an ice cream shop. "Oh no, I could never do that", she said "It's Sunday and I have to keep the Sabbath Day Holy."

Although I think that Christians sometimes go the opposite extreme and do too much on the Sabbath, and although I do feel that we need to honor it, I'm so glad that I don't have to feel guilty over going out to lunch with my husband after a Church service, or having ice cream.

Matter of fact, Jesus even healed on the Sabbath. And did that ever anger the Pharisees! And His disciples picked corn and ate it as well. You can read the account in Matthew 12. In Luke 13:10, Jesus taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

The point is, the real reason for the Sabbath is for us to have a time to rest. In Mark 2:27, Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. The Lord is showing us that He designed the Sabbath as a time to be refreshed.

Even when the world was being created, God rested on the seventh day. God knows that we need down time. He knows that one day a week, we need time to worship, fellowship with other believers, and rest. But I hardly think that having ice cream is a sin.

Romans 6:14 says, "For sin shall have no dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." Colossians 2:16 says, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, drink, or in respect of an Holy day, or in the new moon, OR OF THE SABBATH DAYS:

The point is, I love the freedom that I have as a Christian. I am no longer subject to legalism,

but am under grace. I can eat my ice cream with a clear conscience. What a difference!!!

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to him in his "First Vision" experience. The Mormon Apostle, John A. Widtsoe, made this comment: "*The First Vision of 1820 is of first importance in the history of Joseph Smith. Upon its reality rest the truth and value of his subsequent work.*" ("Joseph Smith – Seeker After Truth", pg.19). If it could be proved that God is Spirit, then Joseph Smith, their founding leader, could not have seen Him and would be exposed as a false prophet, thus the foundation of Mormonism crumbles!

In seeking to prove their point, a scripture Mormons like to use is Genesis 1:26: "*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...*". They say, "See, man is flesh and bone and we are made in God's image so it proves God is also flesh and bone". However, Col.1:15, speaking of Jesus, says: "*Who is the image of the invisible God...*". So we see that "image" is not speaking of a physical likeness. Being created in God's image means that humans share, though imperfectly and finitely, in His communicable attributes (truth, wisdom, love, justice, etc.). Also see Col.3:10.

Mormons also like to use scriptures such as Ex.33:11: "*And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend...*". But Moses talking to God "face to face" cannot be taken to mean that God actually has a physical face. In telling of Moses' great faith, Heb.11:27 says "*...he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*" So "face to face" is simply a Hebrew way of indicating that Moses' contact with God was "personal", "direct", or "intimate" (see Num.12:7-8). Ex.33:18-20 also sheds important light on this scripture.

There are other places in the Bible where anthropomorphic language metaphorically attributes human characteristics to God (hands, finger, eyes, arm, etc.). None of these should be taken literally. Ps.91:4 is a good example of metaphorical language. It speaks of God having "feathers" and "wings", yet we would not envision God as a giant bird.

Although God can manifest Himself anyway He chooses, the flesh and bone God the Mormons believe in is not to be found in the Bible. Along with the above scriptures, 1 Tim. 1:17 tells us He is invisible. John 1:18, 6:46, 1 Tim. 6:16 and 1 John 4:12 tells us no man has seen God. Finally, in Matt. 16:17, Jesus Himself tells us that the Father is not "flesh". We hope you will, in love, share this truth with the Mormons you know.