

SOME FOLKS MAY ASK ME...

*Some folks may ask me, some folks may say,
"Who is this Jesus you talk about every day?"
He is my Savior, He set me free,
Now listen while I tell you what He means to me.*

This is far more than a kids' camp song. It is a reminder to all who call on the name of Jesus as the only begotten Son of God. All too often Christians can unintentionally allow our religion to become a set of rules and regulations void of relationship.

The church that Jesus built does, indeed, have rules and regulations. To deny that is to deny Christian love itself. Why? Because Jesus, Himself, said, "If you love Me, you will keep my commandments," - John 14:15. Without commandments to keep, we cannot fully love Him as He commanded.

The problem comes if Christians either,

- A. Deny there are rules and regulations to obey ("Just fell the love!"), or
- B. Begin to believe that rules and regulations are the only things in Christianity.

I agree with James Dobson's comment, "Rules without relationship create rebellion." I've spent my 43 years preaching career seeing some people reject the rules because they do not have love for Jesus, nor recognize Jesus' love for them. Far too may forget the powerful reality found in 1 John 4:19, "We love because He first loved us." We can love, simply because He first loved us! Since it is virtually impossible to *express* love without some sort of sacrifice, it makes sense when we read, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...." Love gives. Love sacrifices. Love often *gives up something*.

In our case today, love gives up sin to "keep His commandments." The more we love, the more we talk about the object of our love. The more we talk about the object of our love, in this case, Jesus, Himself, the more people hear us talking. The more they hear us talking, the more likely they are to ask, "Who is this Jesus you talk about every day?" Then we can answer the question as an expression of our love for Him and for them:

He is my everything, He is my all
He is my everything, both great and small
He gave His life for me, made everything new,
He is my everything, now how about you?

Ray Wallace