

1st John
Burden or Blessing?

Have you ever felt like God's commands were more of a burden than a blessing? Let's look at the facts!

THE PASSAGE:

Here We Go Again! (1 John 5:1-5)

1 John 3:22-23 & John 14:6 1 John 2:9-11 & John 13:34-35
1 John 2:3-5 & John 14:21

If I want the _____, I need the _____.

If I genuinely _____, I'll also _____
(all of them).

If I genuinely _____, I'll also _____.

Who Ya Gonna Believe? (1 John 5:6-12)

Matthew 3:16-17 Matthew 27:50-51 & Hebrews 2:14-15
John 1:32-34 & John 15:26

If I reject _____, I'm calling God a _____!

GOD'S COMMANDS: BURDEN OR BLESSING?

What does the Bible say?

1 John 5:3-4 Matthew 11:28-30 Joshua 1:7-8
Proverbs 3:5-7

God's commands are for our _____ –

they're never _____.

What does the Evidence say? Five Quick Examples

1) Old Testament: Strict _____ and _____ laws.
Exodus 15:26 Exodus 20:8-11 & Mark 2:23-27 (don't forget Matthew 27:50-51 ended these laws)

2) Marriage: Stay _____ – even if it's a _____.
Malachi 2:16 Matthew 19:3-6

3) Money: Give away a _____ of your _____.
Proverbs 3:9-10 Malachi 3:9-11 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 & 1 Timothy 6:9-10, 17-19

4) Sex: If you want to be _____ – get _____.
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

5) Honesty:

Always _____.

Matthew 5:37 & Ephesians 4:25 (With RARE exceptions
Exodus 1:15-21 & James 2:24-26)

The only smart choice:

Proverbs 3:5-6 Romans 12:2

Do things _____ – even when it makes _____!

1. Can you think of a time in your life when you did things God's way despite the fact it made no sense and God proved His way was best? If so, describe it.

2. An essential part of doing things God's way is learning what the Bible says. Describe how you are doing or feeling about learning God's Word.

3. One place to read about the blessings of obeying God's commands is in Psalm 119. Read the following verses and write down what David, the author, says regarding... ..the benefits of knowing and obeying God's Word.

Psalm 119:9

Psalm 119:98-100

Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:165

Was there a time in your life when you experienced one of these benefits from reading or hearing God's Word?

Psalm 119:24

Psalm 119:72

Psalm 119:97

Psalm 119:120

How do you think David developed such a positive attitude towards God's Word?

4. We heard this weekend that doing things God's way is the smart choice. It's easy to think that when we obey, it will result in immediate rewards and earthly blessings. What do you learn about this kind of thinking from Hebrews 11:32-38

How could Matthew 6:19-20 affect your motivation to obey God's commands?

5. Larry gave five examples of God's commands that our culture would call arbitrary but which, in reality, are for our benefit. Read the following passages and write down the additional example found in each one.

Matthew 5:27-28

Matthew 22:15-21

Ephesians 6:1-3

How might our culture view each of these examples as burdensome? What is the benefit of doing it God's way for each example?

6. Looking back on the eight examples of the benefits of doing things God's way (five in the sermon and three in question 3), which do you find most challenging to live out (and why)?