“Squashing Spiritual Intimidator's”

**SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING:** Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, and May Complicate Pregnancy.

**SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING**: Quitting **Smoking** Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.

**Colossians 2:16-23 – NIV**

**16**Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. **17**These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. **18**Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. **19**They have lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. **20**Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: **21**Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!? **22**These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. **23**Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

**Freedom is found in staying connected to Christ:**

**1)** Don’t let anyone **judge** you with does & don’ts, diet & days *(a warning against* ***legalism****)* **vs 16-17**

 ***16****Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sab bath day.****17****These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.*

**Apostle Paul squashed spiritual intimidators**

*“But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.* ***9****Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.* **1 Corinthians 8:8-9**

 *“Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.****2****One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables.* ***3****The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.* ***4****Who are you to judge someone else’s servant?* ***5****One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind.****6****Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord…****13****Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.****14****I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is un-clean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean.****15****If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love.* ***Romans 14:1-6, 13-15***

**Freedom is found in staying connected to Christ:**

**2)** Don’t let anyone **disqualify** you **–** who are satisfied in Christ *(a warning against* ***mysticism****)* **vs 18-19**

 ***18****Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.****19****They have lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.*

**Be aware and careful what you dabble in…**

*“Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.”* **Leviticus 19:31**

  *“When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, inter-prets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the Lord your God. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so.”*

 ***Deuteronomy 18:9-14***

**Freedom is found in staying connected to Christ:**

**3)** Don’t let anyone **enslave** you with rules upon rules *(a warning against* ***asceticism****)* **vs 20-23**

***20****Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules:****21****Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!?****22****These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings.****23****Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body (asceticism), but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.* ***Colossians 2:20-23***

*“Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the know-ledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.* ***3****His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.****4****Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.* ***2 Peter 1:2-4***

*“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”* **Proverbs 4:23**

**Also See: Mark 7:1-8, 14-23**