



Loopholes

Sunday, November 16, 2014

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Stepping Stones Community Church

Introduction:

- We love loopholes
- Religious loopholes

Letting go of loopholes

1. _____ for our benefit

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"

Matthew 15:1-2 NIV

2. Using _____ to avoid _____

Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God,' they are not to 'honor their father or mother' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites!"

Matthew 15:1-7 NIV

3. Love: _____

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **John 13:34 NIV**

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Romans 13:8-9 NIV

Next Steps:

- ☐ Give my whole heart to God, and let go of my loopholes
- ☐ Commit to start each day this week with the question, "*What does love require of me?*"
- ☐ Commit to discover more about the Christian life and live it out day-by-day
- ☐ Read 1 Corinthians 13 (love chapter) this week
- ☐ _____