

PHARISEES VS. FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST
Mark 7:1-13 (NLT)

❖ To the Pharisees:

1. TELLING OTHERS what to do was more important than changing yourself.

One day some Pharisees and teachers of religious law arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. ² They noticed that some of his disciples failed to follow the Jewish ritual of hand washing before eating. ³ (The Jews, especially the Pharisees, do not eat until they have poured water over their cupped hands, as required by their ancient traditions. ⁴ Similarly, they don't eat anything from the market until they immerse their hands in water. This is but one of many traditions they have clung to—such as their ceremonial washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, "Why don't your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony."

Mark 7:1-5 (NLT)

2. Outward APPEARANCE was more important than the HEART.

Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷ Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'"

Mark 7:6-7 (NLT)

3. HUMAN TRADITION was more important than God's Word.

"For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition." ⁹ Then he said, "You skillfully sidestep God's law in order to hold on to your own tradition."

Mark 7:8-9 (NLT)

4. The LETTER of the Law was more important than the SPIRIT of the Law.

"For instance, Moses gave you this law from God: 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.' ¹¹ But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.' ¹² In this way, you let them disregard their needy parents. ¹³ And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others."

Mark 7:10-13 (NLT)

❖ To the Follower of Christ:

1. Taking the LOG out of your own EYE is more important than pointing out the SPLINTER in someone else's.

"How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye?"

Matthew 7:4 (NLT)

2. The HEART is supremely important as the source of OBEDIENCE.

"May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in obedience to him and keep the commands, decrees and laws he gave our ancestors."

1 Kings 8:58 (NIV)

3. God's Word is the authority over HUMAN TRADITION and EXPERIENCE.

"Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

Acts 17:11 (NIV)

4. The Spirit of the law is FREEDOM.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:1-2 (NLT)

Bottom Line: Do I live more like a Pharisee or a follower of Christ?