

## **SABBATH-KEEPING**

*David Halbrook*

Recently I attended a religious debate. Have you ever heard of this? Two preachers who believe opposite ideas, met to publicly defend their beliefs. (Would your preacher do this?) Both men showed courage by this though only one man taught the truth. The subject was whether God expects us to keep the Sabbath or the first day of the week.

God *wiped out the handwriting of requirements, so let no one judge you ... regarding ... sabbaths* (Col. 2:14-17). The *handwriting of requirements* is the law and commandments God gave Israel by Moses, including those written on stones, the ten commandments (read 2 Cor. 3:7-16).

Today, we follow Jesus not Moses (Heb. 8:1-6). In His new covenant, we learn not to steal or murder (Eph. 4:28; Gal. 5:21). The new covenant does not tell us to keep the Sabbath. It teaches us about the Lord's Day (Rev. 1:10; day of Jesus' resurrection Lk. 24:1), the first day of the week when disciples eat the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20, 26). When do you thus eat to remember His death?

*Editor's Note:* The debate was recorded and is available free of charge. Contact David Halbrook for more details. Stan Adams is the gospel preacher who participated in the debate. His opponent was Mr. Ross from the "Church of God—Seventh Day." If you know someone who mixes the law of Moses and the law of Christ, even if it isn't on the subject of the Sabbath, give them this article, appearing in our space in *Arkansas Weekly* to help them see the difference between the old and new covenant. Most religious people and groups today do not understand this subject, so let's each do our job to teach them.

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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## ***DISCIPLINE IN THE HOME***

*Irvin Lee*

Children do not have the ability at birth to understand the language of their parents. We all realize this, but we should also understand that these little people do not know the commonly accepted rules of etiquette, nor do they recognize property rights. Each child seems to assume that anything he finds and likes belongs to him. Only gradually does he learn that some things are his and that other things are the property of others. The innocent child does not, of course, have any sense of discernment between what is morally right and what is wrong. Because of parental failure to guide or train the children many young people never come to have a definite code of morals or sensitive consciences to guide them in the way of righteousness.

While many are not trained to discern between good and evil, they could have been trained. They are as capable of developing faith, godliness, and spiritual wisdom as they are of developing physical skills and language skills from people about them. Some parents take an interest in helping their children to develop the ability to earn a living but not much concern to teach them how to live. There are many who are skilled in athletics, music, and in various aspects of business that are as ignorant of spiritual values as the brute beast from the jungle (**2 Pet. 2:12, KJV**). That which is most important is lacking.

Parents must have the respect of their children or they cannot convey the value of their own knowledge and experience to them. Love, instruction, personal attention, and the proper example from parents can go a long way toward obtaining this respect. To make their word authoritative, the chastening rod is recommended by the word of God. This is not physical or mental abuse, but it is not always pleasant to the one who is disciplined or to the one who is administering it. Even the Lord chastens those He loves.

"My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (**Heb. 12:5-11**).

We may not be able to identify the occasions when the loving heavenly Father is chastening us. Our complaining bitter attitude toward things that are beyond our control will not help. Fortunate children whose fathers love them enough to use the rod at the proper time and in the proper way grow up with special respect for their parents. Those undisciplined children cannot be pleased. No undisciplined child is ever a happy child. He is not self disciplined nor is he pleasant and cooperative in disposition. Is this not true of the unrestrained children you know? Love suggests the use of the rod, but not to the unreasonable point of abuse (**Prov. 13:24; Col. 3:20, 21**). There is the very useful form of discipline that yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness (**Eph. 6:4; Prov. 13:24**).

The punishment the child receives from his parents should be adequate to bring his will into subjection. Impulsively hitting the child may only aggravate the rebellious attitude. Conquer the rebel and be consistent, and there will not need to be a constant running battle. A good man should have his children in subjection with all gravity (**1 Tim. 3:4, 5**). There is some "know how" involved in proper discipline. Children are small for a few years so all parents should develop a skill in the use of effective discipline. Obedience is one of the greatest lessons to be taught, and here is where discipline in the home comes into its place of very great importance. An adult can buffet his own body and bring it into subjection, but a child lacks the depth of understanding to discipline himself, so his parents provide wise and effective discipline until he is trained and mature enough to see the need to control his own fleshly nature.

(*Truth Magazine*, February 17, 1983)

## ***BELIEVER'S GENE?***

*Joe R. Price*

According to one Cambridge University professor, religion may spread over the earth due to a "believers' gene":

Cambridge University economics professor Robert Rowthorn theorizes a "predisposition toward religion" in a paper published in "Proceedings of the Royal Society B," a prestigious journal of Britain's Royal Society of scientists.

Rowthorn suggests that people with strong religious beliefs tend to have more children and that this, combined with a genetic predisposition to believe, can explain the expansion of religion. ("Study Links Spread of Religion With 'Believer Gene'", Al Webb, Religious News Service, [huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com))

Over the past decade there has been talk of a "God gene" when molecular biologist Dean Hamer published "The God Gene: How Faith Is Hardwired into Our Genes", putting forward the suggestion that spirituality is "hot-wired" into humanity. (This hypothesis grows out of a purely evolutionary view of human beings.)

Please note the following:

1) *Human beings are more than chemical reactions and molecular interactions.* Put simply, we are more than flesh and blood; we are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27). This does not argue for a "God gene". We did not evolve from lower life forms; we are unique in this world. Whenever people refuse "to retain God in their knowledge" they rebel against a crucial element of their very being (Rom. 1:21, 28-32).

2) *Human beings are made to respond to the evidence and work of our Creator.* Paul said God's rule over the nations of men is a reason for people to "seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him..." (Acts 17:26-27). Evidence, not genes, brings us to God.

3) *Attributing belief to genes allows people to escape personal responsibility for their moral and religious choices.* Freewill concerning God is minimized by a "believer's" gene. We make decisions about truth; it is not in the genes (Jno. 8:24; Matt. 28:18; Gal. 6:7). Will you choose to believe and be saved (Mk. 16:15-16)?

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