



Short, powerful Life videos

Video: “**Why Was Jesus Against Hand-Washing**”

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Location: **NewHeartAndMind.com**

Tags: **Mark 7, God’s laws vs human traditions, hand washing, vain worship, Pharisee confrontation**

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The Bible says in Mark 7:

7 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ...

5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

How did Jesus respond?

6 He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “‘These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.

7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’

8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

Why was Jesus so harsh? Let’s look at His words.

1. Jesus called the Pharisees and scribes, ‘hypocrites,’ because they pretended to love God.
2. Jesus said Jesus said that their worship was in vain or useless! Why? Because they were following human rules.

The problem wasn’t hand washing. The problem was that the Pharisees and teachers of the law had made hand washing a religious law. Imagine that – they were telling God to obey their rules!

But, Jesus would have none of that, because no one except God can make any religious laws. Jesus said that following tradition is vain/useless worship.

Read what else Jesus says:

8 “You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

Wow! Jesus said that their traditions had become more important to them than God’s word! In other words, people start with the Bible; then they establish church rules. But then their church rules become more important than the Bible! Jesus calls this vain/useless worship. It’s a kind of self-worship.

So Jesus was not against washing hands, itself. He was against people making religious traditions into religious law.

Remember: No one except God can make religious rules.

So, if it's not God's command in the NT to Christians, then it's a human rule, and you don't have to follow it.