

# HABITS OF THE WEEK LUKE 4:16; ACTS 20:6-12

We are **not** what we believe.

We **are** what we love (love to do & do for love)

And we love, and **only** love, what we **repeatedly do!** (Our habits, customs, rituals, rhythms)

The Lord's Day – it is something you do till it is part of who you are!

## I. A habit of the week!

Strangely, the seven day cycle is the only cycle not somehow built into nature.

24 hours:

Month:

Seasons:

Year:

7 day cycle – not rooted in any natural phenomena!

### ➤ It is rooted in and based upon creation | God's creative acts and rest

**Genesis 2:1** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. **Genesis 2:2** And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he **rested** on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. **Genesis 2:3** And God **blessed** the seventh day, and **sanctified** it: **because** that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

**Exodus 20:8** **Remember** the sabbath day, to keep it holy. **Exodus 20:9** Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: **Exodus 20:10** But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: **Exodus 20:11** **For** in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: **wherefore** the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

### ➤ It is rooted in and based upon redemption (from Egypt)

**Deuteronomy 5:12** **Keep** the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee. **Deuteronomy 5:13** Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work: **Deuteronomy 5:14** But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

**Deuteronomy 5:15** And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: **therefore** the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

### ➤ It is rooted in and based upon the resurrection

**Matthew 28:1** In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

**Mark 16:1** And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. **Mark 16:2** And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

**Luke 24:1** Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

**John 20:1** The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

**Acts 20:7** And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

**1 Corinthians 16:1** Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

**1 Corinthians 16:2** Upon **the first day** () of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

**Revelation 1:10** I was in the Spirit on **the Lord's day** (τῇ κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ), and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

**1 Corinthians 11:20** When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat **the Lord's supper** (κυριακὸν δεῖπνον).

### **Thoughts:**

- **The Lord's day immediately distinguished the Christians / Church from the Jewish Sabbath / Sabbath**
- **This day was **obvious** because of the resurrection**
- **This was God's predetermined rhythm - a built-in rhythm**
- **Christians did this as a matter of custom, habit, intuitive practice **without** much conscious thought.**

**Luke 4:16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, **as his custom** (κατὰ τὸ εἰωθὸς) was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

**Luke 22:39** And he came out, and went, **as he was wont** (κατὰ τὸ ἔθος), to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

**Luke 1:9** According to the custom (κατὰ τὸ ἔθος τῆς ἱερατείας) of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

**Luke 2:42** And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem **after the custom** (κατὰ τὸ ἔθος τῆς ἑορτῆς) of the feast.

**Acts 25:16** To whom I answered, It is not the **manner** (ἔθος Ῥωμαίων) of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have licence to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him.

- **The Sabbath & Synagogue were used as a means of evangelism → for as long as opportunity allowed**

**Acts 13:14** But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, **and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.** **Acts 13:15** And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on. **Acts 13:16** Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

**Acts 17:1** Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, **where was a synagogue of the Jews:** **Acts 17:2** And Paul, **as his manner** (κατὰ δὲ τὸ εἰωθὸς τοῦ Παύλου) was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, **Acts 17:3** Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

**Acts 17:16** Now while Paul waited for them **at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.** **Acts 17:17** Therefore disputed he in the synagogue (ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ) with the Jews, and with the devout persons, **and in the market (ἐν τῇ ἀγορᾷ) daily with them that met with him.**

## **II. A habit with the **Body!****

**Acts 20:7** And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

**1 Corinthians 10:16** The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? **1 Corinthians 10:17** For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

**Hebrews 3:12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. **Hebrews 3:13** But **exhort one another** daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

**Hebrews 10:25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; **but exhorting one another**: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

**1 Corinthians 12:12** For as the body is **one**, and hath **many** members, and **all** the members of that **one** body, being **many**, are **one** body: **so also is Christ**. **1 Corinthians 12:13** For by **one** Spirit are we **all** baptized into **one** body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been **all** made to drink into **one** Spirit.

- **This cannot be done as an individual**
- **Much less can the Lord's Day be about me, myself & I**
  
- **The Lord's Day is a community / congregational gathering**
  
- **The Lord's Day is about Him & us!!!**
  
- **We worship Him & "one another" one another!**

**1 Corinthians 11:17** Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, **that ye come together** not for the better, but for the worse.

**1 Corinthians 11:18** For first of all, **when ye come together in the church**, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

**1 Corinthians 11:19** For there must be also heresies **among you**, that they which are approved may be made manifest **among you**.

**1 Corinthians 11:20** **When ye come together therefore into one place**, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

**1 Corinthians 11:21** For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

**1 Corinthians 11:22** What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? **or despise ye the church of God**, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

**1 Corinthians 11:33** Wherefore, my brethren, **when ye come together** to eat, tarry one for another.

**1 Corinthians 11:34** And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; **that ye come not together unto condemnation**. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

### **III. Habits on purpose!**

**Acts 20:7** And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

**1 Corinthians 16:1** Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. **1**

**Corinthians 16:2** Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

**Acts 2:42** And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

#### **Thoughts:**

- **What strikes me is the instinctive / intuitive nature of this!**
- **Habits of simple, gospel-centered, congregational-oriented**
- **Praying, singing, giving, fellowshiping, hearing, reading, teaching & preaching Scripture, the Lord's Supper, meeting needs...**