

Standards or Rules

Acts 16:4-5

4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.

5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

I was reading the Word, and this jumped out at me: They delivered unto the churches DECREES. Why? For them to KEEP. Decrees are laws, delivered by the apostles and elders relative to RIGHT living (Thayer's Definition). If there is a right way for a child of God to live, there has got to be a WRONG way....

What do you call these decrees? I call them STANDARDS. They are standards of conduct and holiness that the Saints of God need to keep in order for them to be in right STANDING with God. If there is a right standing with God, there has got to be a WRONG standing with Him.

What do you call these decrees? Do you call them STANDARDS or RULES? If you call them standards, you will lovingly keep them and do your best not to deviate from them; you don't look at them as a drudgery; you don't look at others and say, "They don't keep them anymore, why should we have to?" Standards never become old and antiquated. Standards never become burdensome or troubling to keep.

If you look at them as RULES, you will try to find a way to circumnavigate them, you will look for ways to justify why you won't keep them, or to your own destruction, you will try to find someplace where you can go that has lessened the RULES, because after all, these rules are old and antiquated.

2Cor. 12:18

18 I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?

There was a time not very long ago, that most all Apostolic churches in our fellowship walked in the same spirit, and the same steps. We all walked in the way called holiness.

Because the churches kept those decrees they were ESTABLISHED—solidified, to make solid, make firm, strengthen, make strong (Thayer)—in the faith. They learned it, they lived it, they loved it, and they were willing to earnestly CONTEND for it. They weren't swayed by every wind of doctrine.

How established is the church in 2019? What is the latest rage that is going to try to sweep through Apostolic youth groups? What is the latest rage you're going to hear your coworkers talking about? How will you respond?

Jer. 6:16

16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

The old paths are still the good way. The righteous decrees set forth by our Elders are still relevant for this day that we live in.

Do you want to see revival in the church? Letting down the standards is not going to do it. Keeping the old paths will!

RPS