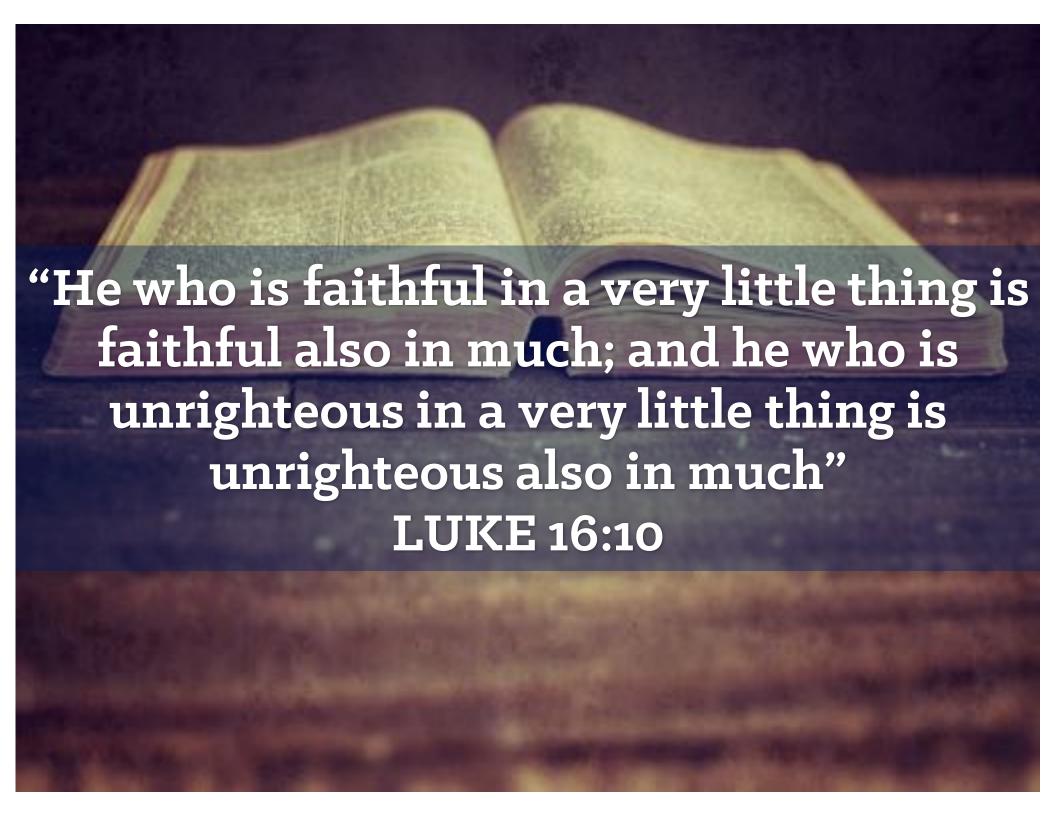


Is it a big deal to break manmade rules, such as traffic laws or company policies?

RULES ARE MEANT TO BE BROKE, RIGHT?

- God expects mankind to obey all sorts of rules, including:
- Those established by civil authority (1 Peter 2:13ff, Romans 13:1ff)
- An employer (Colossians 3:22)
- God's laws are applicable to all people (Acts 17:30-31, John 12:48)
- "Right" and "wrong" are determined by God alone (Deuteronomy 12:1-8).



ARE RULE-KEEPERS JUST MODERN-DAY PHARISEES?

- They were condemned for hypocrisy (Matthew 23:3).
- They placed their human traditions and customs ahead of scriptures, in violation of them (Matthew 15:3).
- They were self-righteous (Luke 18:9).
- They served God for human praise (Matthew 6:1).
- They sinned by putting Jesus to death (John 19:11).
- They were condemned for a failure to recognize truth (Matthew 21:27)

Should rules be adapted to the times?

"Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your souls"

"We will not walk in it!"

JEREMIAH 6:16

WHAT ABOUT HUMAN INCONSISTENCY?

- Do you ever rely on the mistakes of others to justify your own failures or shortcomings?
- "For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality" (Colossians 3:25).
- With that being said, there are situations where we must accept human inconsistency as a framework for how we live. For example, in an ideal world I would be able to drive the exact speed limit at all times safely. But other people create an environment that makes that practically impossible. Motive matters...

"I'm going to drive as fast as I can get away with, knowing that others are driving even faster"

VS.

"I'm going to drive as safe as possible given the reality of my circumstances"

"What if I just bend the rules without breaking them?"