Questions - Holidays & Cultural Traditions.

How does the call to be holy balance with being free in Christ? What Biblical principles guide us in being both holy and free?

What is the Sabbath and when did God establish it? What are its purposes? How is it made for man?

What is the Christian's obligation toward the Sabbath? Why?

How do Christians break the principle of equivocation on this issue?

What is the real issue about whether a person regards a day or not?

What evil does the legalist and the libertine have in common?

What is the relationship of the Sabbath and Sunday?

Why do most Christians assemble together for worship on Sunday?

Should Christians worship on Sunday? Why or why not?

How should you respond to a Seventh Day Adventist's claims?

What general time of day did the church in Troas gather in Acts 20:6? What is the significance of this fact?

What Sabbath principles should Christians apply in their lives?

What are legitimate reasons for missing Sunday Morning Worship? What are illegitimate reasons?

How should Christians respond to Jewish Holidays? Why?

How should Christians respond to other Holidays? Why?

How should you respond to a cultural tradition that requires you to disobey God?

How did Paul respond to the different cultures he was in and why? - 1 Corinthians 9:19f.

Can things once used for pagan worship be used to worship God? Why or why not?

What traditions do you have or use to teach about the Lord?

Is it okay to celebrate Jesus' birth on December 25? Why or why not?

What is the origin of Santa Claus? What are the major concerns Christians should have about him?

What is the origin of the following: Christmas Trees, wreaths, Holly, carols and cards. Should a Christian use them, and if so, how?

What is the symbolism of the Candy Cane?

Case Studies

The youth in your church often get together on Sunday afternoon and will sometimes play sports or games. An older man in your church has become aware of it and has come to you to complain that the youth should be taught to respect Sunday as the Lord's Sabbath. How will you respond?

A first responder in your church who is a new Christian has come to you for advice on how to deal with having to work a rotating shift that requires him to miss every other Sunday. He knows his work is necessary for the safety of the community and wants to fulfill his professional obligations, but he knows from Hebrews 10:25 that he should not forsake the assembling together of the saints. What additional questions would you ask him? What advice would you give him?

A member of your church has become intrigued with the Jewish holidays and festivals and is beginning to wonder if he should participate in them. What questions would you ask him? What advice would you give him?

A new believer comes to you for advice about how to respond to Halloween. A woman in your church she has been meeting with has told her is a devil's holiday with origins in paganism. She used to go to Halloween parties and her own kids have been participating in trick or treat in the neighborhood since they were old enough to walk. She is not sure how to respond and what to tell her kids. What advice would you give her?

A missions trip is being planned for going to a tropical nation that has very different cultural standards on dress, food and behavior than what is normal in your church. A discussion breaks out on how to apply the principles in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 on this trip. What are the principles in that passage and what general advice would you give to set the boundaries of what would be acceptable or unacceptable?

A discussion breaks out in your parenting class about the various cultural traditions surrounding Christmas with a particular concern about Santa Claus and whether children should be taught to believe he brings them presents. How will you help the group think through the Biblical principles that apply to both Santa Claus and other cultural Christmas traditions?