

WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Lord's Day

ARTICLE 8

VII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- The Lord's Day is the day that Christians gather together and worship, following the practice of churches from the time of the apostles in the New Testament.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- Acts 20:7 - On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. (cf. 1 Corinthians 16:2)

WHAT IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- Hebrews 10:25 - not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

WHEN IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- . The early church met on the first day of the week, on Sundays, which is why we refer to the Lord's Day, and not to the Sabbath, which focused on the seventh day of the week, the day we now call Saturday.

WHEN IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- Exodus 20:8-11 - “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. “Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.”
- The word Sabbath literally means “rest.”

WHEN IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- The nation of Israel was to follow a consistent pattern: every week they would do all of their work in the first six days, so that on the seventh day of the week they could rest from their work.
- The Old Testament continually highlights the Sabbath command above all the other commandments. It was THE command that demonstrated your faithfulness to God.

WHEN IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- The Sabbath was a sign of salvation, of your relationship with God. The purpose of the Sabbath command was so that we would be like God, reflect a life of salvation before him.

WHEN IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- Gen 2:1-3 - Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.
- But when you read the rest of the OT you quickly discover that Israel did not keep the Sabbath (Neh 13:15-22; Ezek 20:10-26).

WHEN IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- In light of this we begin to see prophecies in Isaiah 66 and Ezekiel 46 about a new time with a new king when all kinds of people (not just Israel) would find eternal rest in a new heavens and a new earth, when God would send a redeemer to bring his people into a new place where they could find rest in him.
- When we come to the New Testament we are presented with this new king, the one who leads us into eternal rest through his kingdom, and his name is Jesus Christ.

WHEN IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- Matthew 12:8 - “For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”
- Jesus completely fulfills the Sabbath command on our behalf, and the only way for us to keep it is to believe in him. In Christ, when we are saved, we begin to experience our Sabbath rest, the rest God created us to experience in him (Matt 11:28-30; Heb 3:7-4:11).

WHEN IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS**. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

WHEN IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- Romans 14:5-6 – One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

WHEN IS THE LORD'S DAY?

- Colossians 2:16-17 – Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day – things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S DAY FOR?

- This is what our worship on Sunday is supposed to be a preview of
- Christians began worshipping on Sundays because it is the first day of the week, the day when God created light, the day when Jesus Christ rose from the dead and brought new life and light to the world, the day when Jesus first appeared to his disciples (John 20:19)

WHAT IS THE LORD'S DAY FOR?

- Sunday is not merely day of rest, it is a day of worship. It is a day when we are supposed to come together and sing as one body, to hear the word of God, to build one another up, to proclaim Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and the rest we find in him until he comes.
- In Christ, living in the power of the Spirit, we keep the Sabbath by believing in Christ, and we celebrate the Sabbath every Sunday when we gather together as God's people and worship the Lord of the Sabbath.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S DAY FOR?

- What we do or don't do on the Lord's day other than corporate worship should be guided by consciences informed by Scripture, yielded to the Spirit's leading, and in concert with our local church.