

CouplesInBloom.com – Sabbath or Sabotage

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“Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths, all the days of the **desolation**. And you shall be in the land of your enemies; then the land shall enjoy rest, and shall enjoy its Sabbaths. It shall rest all the days of the **desolation**, that which it has *not rested* in **your Sabbaths** while you lived on it.” ⇒ Leviticus 26:34-35. Similar to Deuteronomy 28, Leviticus 26 says obeying God, including **the Sabbath, is more than an option: it directs life itself**.

Besides well-known Sabbath Scriptures such as Exodus 20:8 ⇒ maintain the Sabbath in your life; Mark 2:27 ⇒ the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath; Mark 2:28 ⇒ Jesus is also Lord over the Sabbath... God also says in Leviticus 26 (very clearly) ⇒ ‘**My Sanctuary, My Sabbath: honor them or you will have desolation in your life.**’

This Scripture is actually about **relationship**: humanity is bent on the bless-*ings* to the neglect of the Bless-*er*. Whether we honor the Sabbath reveals our choice... regardless of our words. Realize the depravity of our sin-sick world: the Sabbath is restful (a good thing) and mankind *still* disobeys it! The worst part, however, is the disrespect to God by not keeping (the blessing) He (the Bless-*er*) gave to us... like slapping God in the face.

Understand that **relationship** with God is *not* about following laws ⇒ 1 Corinthians 15:56-57; Romans 8:1-4. *Jesus* broke Sabbath laws, explaining the spirit of the law (**love**) versus the letter of the law in **healing** ⇒ Luke 6:6-10; **feeding the hungry** ⇒ Luke 6:1-5; and **helping** ⇒ Luke 14:5-6. Do we see how **relationship** is God’s motivation in the law? The Bible literally describes **WHY** God made the Sabbath: **for rest**... not for legality.

Our problem is **not believing God** will honor us if we honor His Sabbath ⇒ Hebrews 4:11 “Therefore let us **labor** to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of unbelief.” That word **labor** translates *use speed, make effort, be prompt / earnest*. We need to **labor** against the temptation of unbelief... remembering it is about **relationship**.

WHAT does a Sabbath consist of, anyway? We just learned it is **not** defined legally. The word Sabbath means *repose* and *desist*; *repose* includes resting in confidence and having harmony / nothing standing out; *desist* includes stopping and not proceeding. It is better stated: what does a Sabbath does **NOT** consist of. This is **what** the **Bible** says.

Cultures have complicated the definition with religiosity. Sunday is a day initially named (centuries ago) to honor the sun. Some cultures choose this day for the Sabbath, and other cultures choose other days. The previous Scriptures show God’s heart in the Sabbath, so it may not be wise to legally argue **WHEN** it should be; just **have** it!

Isaiah 58:13-14 ⇒ summarizes the above aspects about the Sabbath. These truths also apply to **what** the **love relationship** of **marriage** needs as well: **consistent Sabbaths**. Marriage is made in the image of relationship with God: it needs consistency **NOT** merely in things but in “**delighting**” in the **person** of the spouse, as ⇒ Isaiah 58:14 says, allowing the couple “**to ride on the high places of the earth**” in their **love relationship**.

No one who honors the Sabbath has desolation of relationship! Everyone has trials but those who are intimate with God are delivered into **abundance** ⇒ John 16:23-33. Do not **sabotage** intimacy with God or in your marriage: honor the **Sabbath in both now**. ♥