



**Q #9:** What right do you have to tell me how to live my life?  
Why so many rules? Christianity is restrictive like a straightjacket. Isn't absolute truth the enemy of freedom?

**1. What right do you have to tell me how to live my life?**

A. [None](#).

- The atheist, agnostic, skeptic, humanist, and naturalist worldviews: we make our own meaning, purpose and rules.
- The Christian worldview: we discover our meaning, purpose and rules.

B. Since it's God's world, then it's [His rules](#).

Since God's there, then He's the [boss](#).

C. In our democratic republic everyone has the right and responsibility to contend for their views [respectfully](#) and legally.

- Student-followers of Jesus enter the discussion *without* self-righteousness,
- and *with* a true desire to love and serve all our neighbors, including people of other religions, lifestyles, moral preferences, etc.

**2. Why so many rules? Christianity is restrictive like a straightjacket.**

A. God's moral and ethical restrictions [protect](#) us like traffic laws and seatbelts.

B. God's moral and ethical restrictions [guide](#) us like rules for playing a game.

C. God's moral and ethical restrictions [maximize](#) our God-designed potential.

- A restricted diet will benefit your health.
- Great benefit comes to athletes and musicians from diet, exercise, and practice.
- Fish are freest when they function according to their design.
- Love is the most liberating freedom-loss of all.

Principle: To experience the joy and freedom of love you must [give up](#) your personal autonomy (independence).

Point: In every area and endeavor of life the [right](#) restrictions can free a person to greater power and fulfillment.  
The same is true for spiritual and moral growth.

D. The Bible is not a rulebook to oppress us; it's a blueprint on how to unleash our full human [potential](#).

**3. Isn't absolute truth the enemy of freedom?**

A. So-called absolute freedom brings [bondage](#) to the things submitted to.

B. Our freedom is limited because we were created for a [purpose](#).

C. Absolute truth (which includes God's rules) is the path to [freedom](#).

D. The truth is a [Person](#) who came here to connect with you.

Message

Christianity is not an oppressive religion; it's a liberating relationship.

Think about it and act on it:

- Tim Keller (The Reason for God, P. 35-50 ) suggests two key questions for determining whether a community is open and caring rather than narrow and oppressive?

Which community's beliefs lead its members to treat persons in other communities with love and respect - to serve them and meet their needs? [NT Christianity, original Christianity, historic Christianity](#).

Which community's beliefs lead it to demonize and attack those who violate their boundaries rather than treating them with kindness, humility, and winsomeness?

- Christianity is different from other religions and unique from other world-views in that Christians do not obey God's rules in order to gain His favor or forgiveness. We have these by His grace. For us, the center is not the rules, it's the relationship with Jesus.
- Read Psalm 19 this week