

Article 8 The Lord's Day

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Stacey didn't include travel time in our time.

Honoring the day of the Lord is not a theological issue for us today. As Baptists, of course, we understand the significance of the Lord's Day. We affirm with reverence the Lord's Day. But that's not a struggle for us as pastors.

Almost every scriptural reference in this article is descriptive, not prescriptive.

It would be easy if it was a command in the Bible that said, Honor the Lord's Day and keep it holy. It would be easy if it was something in the scripture, Turn to this book, turn to this verse, And it commands you to be in church on a Sunday morning.

See, we understand what Jesus said in **Mark chapter 2, verses 27 and 28**. He said, *The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.*

The Sabbath is not an issue for us. Sunday as Sabbath is not the fight.

However, we have a front row seat to a cultural shift that has reprioritized, which was at one time a day truly recognized across the country, across the world as a day set aside for Christian worship, a day set aside for fellowship, a day set aside to refresh and recalibrate.

On Sundays, our days were completely different. Some of y'all remember you had your Sunday clothes. You had your Sunday shoes you couldn't wear on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. They was just for Sunday.

I got my Sunday clothes on today. I got a Sunday tie on.

Some of y'all remember those days you couldn't be caught dead in some flip-flops and jeans in church because Sundays were just different. They were just different.

Listen, renowned forensic pathologist Dr. Sorrell Wake gave an impactful quote that was made famous in the movie that the NFL wanted to block named, *Concussion*. Dr. Wake said, "The NFL owns the day of the week. The same day the church used to own."

Now it's theirs.

As I sat on yesterday after church at SoFi Stadium watching the Rams dismantle my Raiders, I was there among NFL worshipers. They came in their gear. They worshiped, and they sung praise enthusiastically after every touchdown, after every field goal, and after every tackle.

Many of these folks have reprioritized worship for themselves, and now they worship at the throne of the NFL. Sunday after Sunday, they're there enthusiastically worshipping and fellowshiping together. It's amazing.

Some of y'all are, you know, you've been to the games. The fellowship, the bond that they have, they sacrifice time and money to make sure that they worship together on Sunday.

Understand this. ***The church is not in a battle with the NFL for Sundays.*** It may seem like it, but we're not in a fight for Sundays. The NFL can do whatever they want to do.

We have a mandate, a man to honor the Lord, and we honor the Lord because of who he is and what he has done.

It may seem that we're in a battle with those that play soccer. In your neighborhood, in your community, you see many soccer fields filled with families that used to fill your church up. Families that would forego any kind of other activities to make sure they're at church, but now they worship at the soccer field.

They've chosen many different activities to fill up and occupy their Sundays. It used to be a time when you wouldn't dare schedule nothing on a Sunday.

Remember when my son, we got a bonus baby, and we wanted him to play basketball, and we were trying to put him in the basketball league. His sister had played travel ball. She played high school basketball, but I guess I was a little out of touch because I signed him up for basketball.

Now look, and the games were only on Sunday. What you gonna do, Mr. Preacher Man? What you gonna do, Brother Pastor?

Your son wants to play basketball, but it only happens on Sunday morning.

Talked to my wife. It was like, "We just can't do it because for us, we prioritize Sunday worship."

Now I know it may be some other things. They may not hear the music, but you gotta understand this article tells us not just that we honor this day, but we have reverence for this day. It's a day of priority.

I know some of us have given up the fight. Some pastors said, "I'm not gonna even tussle with the people anymore."

But we must continue to point to why we come together, why we worship on the Lord's Day.

In not a legalistic way, but in a way that honors the Lord whom we serve, that points to the resurrection, that points to Jesus Christ.

And let me leave you with a quote from Dr. Moller. He said this, "In our confession, it's not identified as the Sabbath. It's a Lord's Day confession. It's not about what we don't do, but what we do in recognition of the Lord's Day. It's affirmation of recognizing the Lord's Day to worship, remember Christ's sacrifice, and fellowship. It's not the Sabbath. For us, it's a priority."