

Dear Jill,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Question Radio. You asked if it was a sin to work seven days a week.

No, we as Christians, who are not under the Old Law Covenant, do not feel that working seven days is a sin. However, most people, regardless of their religious convictions, readily admit the wisdom for a rest day once a week. Whatever disputes there are on the subject, therefore, pertain to which day shall be observed and to the manner of the observance.

When, through Moses as Mediator, God adopted the nation of Israel as his peculiar people, accepting them into Covenant relationship through their promised obedience to the Law, he fixed for them a special day of the week, the seventh, to be their Sabbath, or day of rest. This Law specially was directed to the Jewish nation. But those of us who are Christian and not under that Law Covenant are not bound by its limitation that the Sabbath should be on the seventh day of the week. Indeed, neither Jesus nor the Apostles ever placed the Gospel Church under the Law Covenant at all. They tell us that those under it were the "house of servants" in bondage and that we are the "house of sons," if we "stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free." This does not mean liberty or freedom to do wrong. Instead we are free to follow the spirit of the Law rather than its letter. This is true of the entire Ten Commandments, as well as of the Fourth. The Heavenly Father does not address his spirit-begotten children with commandments not to kill, not to steal, etc., because such commandments to them would be unnecessary. Begotten of the holy spirit, they love God and reverence him alone, and would not think of worshiping images, or of profaning the Holy Name, or of doing injury to a neighbor or a brother.

Thus to us the Seventh Day represents a Rest of a higher character than that of the Law—a rest of faith, as instead of a physical rest. "We who believe do enter into his rest"—a faith rest based upon our acceptance of Jesus as our satisfaction before God. Jesus was obligated to keep the letter of the Law in a sense and degree that he has not commanded us, his followers. It is ours merely to keep the spirit of it.

Acting along the lines of this liberty, the early Church began to meet on the First Day of the week, because it was on that day that their Redeemer arose from the dead. On that day he appeared to some in the upper room and to two on the way to Emmaus and to Mary, and subsequently to others of the disciples near the tomb. These four manifestations of the Lord's resurrection marked that day in a special sense as a holy day to the early Church. They waited during an entire week and then again he appeared on the first day of the week. Indeed, so far as we may know, all of his eight appearances to his followers after his resurrection were on the first day of the week. No wonder that it became known to them as the Lord's Day. No wonder that they specially associated that Day with all the blessings of God and a rest of faith that came to them through the Redeemer.

Therefore, we feel that Sunday, the first day of the week, is a good day for us to rest not only from our temporal work, but also, and, more importantly, “rest” in the Lord through worship, study, and fellowship with family and with those of like precious faith. Of course, if your job requires you to work on Sunday, you can set aside another day where you can reflect, study God’s word, and, in so doing, you will be blessed as you draw ever closer to Him. “Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of us be found to have fallen short of it.” (Hebrews 4:1)

We hope we have answered your question.

Sincerely,
Christian Questions Radio