

# *How Judaism and Christianity Separated: The Law: Oral and Written*



## Scripture

- **John 5:14-16**

“...do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.” The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.

- **John 1:19**

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

- **John 4:22**

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

- **Revelation 3:7,9**

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:”

<sup>9</sup>“...those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not...”

- **Mark 7:3,6-8, 13**

For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders;

<sup>6</sup> “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men. Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.’”

<sup>13</sup> “Thus invalidating the word of God...”

## Other Scriptures

- Matthew 5:17-18
- John 14:11
- Luke 19:37-38
- Exodus 24

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## **Main Points**

1. Often when John used the term “Jew” he was referring to the religious leadership in Judea.
2. Anti-Semitism: discrimination or prejudice against Jewish people.
3. Anti-Semitic mindset from the Church
4. Traditions of the elders
5. Talmud-The Oral Law and the teachings on it

## **Questions for Discussion**

1. Rabbi shared that separation between Jewish and Christian belief came because of a misunderstanding about what Jesus meant when He used the term “Jews” (from the Gospel of John). He used the term for the leaders of the Jewish religion who were rejecting Him, not for all Jewish people in general. This misunderstanding caused an anti-Semitic mindset to develop within the church toward Jewish people, yet Jesus affirmed the importance of the Jewish community as the source of our very salvation. Why would it be important for us not to use the term “Jew” to refer to the Jewish people? Why are Jewish people worthy of our love, respect, prayers, and witness?
2. Those who are of Orthodox Judaism believe that on Mt. Sinai, Moses--in addition to the written law--received oral revelation to which they were also to be bound, though not written down. What was Jesus’ thinking about these traditions?
3. As we honor the Jewish roots of our faith, how can Jesus’ thinking help keep us free from legalism and law-keeping? Take time to thank Father today for the freedom we have through Jesus.