

Sabbath Talk

The whole subject of Christian conversation relates in no small way to God's Holy Sabbath. **A major aspect of observing the Sabbath Day, one we may seldom think of, concerns the type of conversation appropriate for this special time.**

If you are unsure of which day of the week that the Creator God has specifically set aside as His Sabbath or of exactly how He expects us to observe this day, please download and study our article on this website 'What Day Is God's Sabbath Day?' listed under 'Covenants' sub-title.

Isaiah 58:13-14 [New King James] *"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honourable, and shall honour Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, **nor speaking your own words**, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

God gives us special instructions in this passage of scripture on how to keep His Sabbath Day.

Included within in these instructions is listed the command "*not speaking your own words*" on the Sabbath Day.

This makes it clear that there are some topics of conversation that are appropriate for the Sabbath Day and others that are not.

What topics of conversation are not appropriate? –

Remembering that the Sabbath Day was created for humanity, [**Mark 2:27-28**], for a time of rest, refreshing and drawing near to the Creator God.

Exodus 20:8-11 [New King James] *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."*

We keep the Sabbath Day Holy by **not** doing any work on that day, treating it as a day of physical rest.

Therefore conversations about all our problems on our job or other aspects of our work usually detract from the rest and peace of the seventh day.

Dialogues about our investments, money-making projects or other business schemes are **not** fitting either.

What place does discussion about the status of our favourite football team have on God's day of rest?

These subjects can be discussed on the other six days of the week.

Ask ourselves, does the conversation I am about to have or find myself in the middle of have anything to do with the purpose or intent of the Sabbath?

If the answer is a clean "*no*" then it's time to steer the conversation towards topics more fitting for the day.

What topics are suitable for Sabbath Day conversation?

The most obvious topic is to discuss why you appreciate the Sabbath.

It is wonderful to be able to express your gratitude for the benefits of extra time to rest, pray to your Creator God, spend time with our loved ones and receive instruction from God's Word, the Christian Bible.

We can talk about God's plan for all humanity and how thrilling it will be when all the earth will be at rest during the coming reign of Jesus Christ in the soon-coming Kingdom of God to this earth at the time of Jesus Christ's Second Coming.

Isaiah 2:2-4 [New King James] *"Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."*

The Sabbath Day points towards this time of rest and peace in the future. "Mountain" and "hill" refers to the rule of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Isaiah 11:1-5 [New King James] *"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. His delight is in the fear of the LORD, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist."*

A time when the fear of the Creator God will bring godly wisdom and justice to the world, and a rulership by leaders we can trust.

Isaiah 11:6-9 [New King James] *"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."*

Even the very nature of feared animals will change, and the Creator God and His Word, the Christian Bible, will be known by all human beings.

Psalms 133:1 [New King James] *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*

It is beautiful in the Creator God's sight to see families speaking words of encouragement and gratitude to each other, especially on the Sabbath Day.

Philippians 4:8 [New King James] *"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things."*

If we live with people who believe different than we do, we at least can try to avoid stressful, argumentative subjects. We can speak positively and try to direct the conversation towards those areas that are mutually uplifting.

Matthew 24:42-44 [New King James] *“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

The work of the Christian Church as a whole in proclaiming the message that Jesus Christ gave as part of His gospel message, about His Second Coming. This is a conversation that can help us all to be well prepared for this great event.

This conversation might naturally lead to a discussion of world events and how they relate to prophecy in the Christian Bible.

Jesus Christ gave us many signs as to when His Second Coming will be near, [**Matthew 24:3-14, 21-35**], the generation that sees all these signs will also be alive at Jesus Christ's Second Coming.

This is a subject that is **not** part of the thoughts and conversation of many Christians, yet it was an important topic of conversation in the early Christian Church, and should be today when we are so much nearer the time of this event.

Malachi 3:16 [New King James] *“Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name.”*

There is no better time for conversation to be centred on the Creator God and His plan for all humanity than during the Sabbath.

When the Creator God hears us **not** speaking our own words, but words fitting for His Holy Sabbath Day, we are one big step closer to keeping the Sabbath Day the way the Creator God intended.