Understanding God's Family as He Made It

Jesus built His church just over 2000 years ago, but it is still possible to be part of His original family. It's not that complicated. Consider these portions of His word:

1. Don't go beyond what is written (1 Corinthians 4:6).
2. God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105).
3. Turn not to the right or left (Deut. 5:32; 28:1; Joshua 1:7; et al).
4. God has already given us everything we need pertaining to life and Godliness (2 Peter 1:3,4).
5. Therefore, we should not add to or take from what God has given us in His written word (Deut. 4:2).
6. When we read, we can understand the mysteries of God (Eph.3:3-5).
7. When we follow fully, our joy will be made complete (John 15:11).

I find it interesting that one author compared following some parts of God's word to eating liver, *when you don't like liver.* You know it has lots of protein, vitamins and minerals, but it would not be your first choice for pleasure on your taste buds. So, people try to add all kinds of seasonings and spices, etc. to make it more palatable, more pleasant to their own taste.

Likewise with some portions of scripture… some verses may not be what we would first choose, especially if those passages don't line up with the culture in which we were raised. We just want to taste what feels good to our taste buds.

So, we ask (under our breath of course) "Who does God think He is?" to tell me what to eat, do, believe, etc. But as we read more scripture and learn that God's ways really are the best for all of life, we learn more maturely to ask, "Who do I think I am to even ask, 'Who does God think He is?'"

Every healthy, mature family has rules. The Father of our church family has given us rules to live by that create the deepest and fullest joy, specifically the joy of Jesus (John 15:11). Some find it surprising to think that God knows more about our joy than we do. But that only happens before we really understand who He is, who we are and the incredible power and wisdom of His word, which calls us to be gravely careful *not* to add to His church, things that are not in his original recipe!

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