

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“That’s oleo.” Wisconsin State Senator Gordon Roseliep while blindfolded (it was butter)

### Field

2 they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them... 14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: 15 there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." ... 21 For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, 22 adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." Mark 7:2, 14-15, 21-23

### Thoughts

As a young girl I was complicit in the crime of my parents purchasing yellow margarine across the Illinois state line and returning with it to Milwaukee. Thank God margarine was legalized, but wait, you’ll only find butter in my refrigerator today. I am finally a poster child for the farmers who, clad in overalls, once filled television commercials with their advocacy for the continued ban on margarine. The debate was intense. A Minnesota governor referred to oleomargarine as an “abomination,” and a Wisconsin state senator declared, “I decline to accept as a substitute caul fat, matured under the chill of death.” Was all margarine evil or just the yellow tinted kind, and why was my family eating it?

It’s not difficult to guess that behind the farmers’ Here-I-stand pro-butter posture was a concern for their livelihoods. If only margarine were the key issue for dairy farmers to worry about today. Even though contexts and relevancy for certain legal debates change, some questions persist in our country: Whose jobs are threatened? Who is hungry? How can we work to keep families together? What is fair? We engage with these questions because God’s love for us endures and compels us to respond.

Jesus held a mirror up to people when they got lost in minor rules based on customs, and when they mislabeled evil. We need to do heart work to be honest about our own intentions, from which actions and systems spring. When do old laws create unnecessary barriers? When do laws, more significant than the margarine ones, get altered or used in ways that feed greed rather than physical hunger? What happens when rules fail us? Structures will always be flawed. By grace, not by any laws in themselves, we are saved. With Christ at our center, we regroup and stand again.

Back to the butter: “The serving of colored oleomargarine or margarine at a public eating place as a substitute for table butter is prohibited unless it is ordered by the customer” is still on the books. What do you think? Is that one a keeper? Happy Monday!

### Prayer

Highly recommended.

### Share

Send any quotes you’d like to share with our network to [cindyc@loppw.org](mailto:cindyc@loppw.org)  
All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at [www.loppw.org](http://www.loppw.org)

Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy