

Legalism

I. Legalism - What it is not

- A. Legalism is not obedience to Christ's commandments
- B. Christ expects us to follow Him in wholehearted obedience.
- C. When someone takes what God commands His children and not only shuns it, but condemns it under the sin of legalism, they are clearly performing the work of Satan.
- D. Regardless of what many may think, we are not legalists when we obey Jesus Christ.

II. Legalism - What it is

- A. "Big L" legalism is any attempt to earn your salvation by contributing your works to the work accomplished by Jesus on the cross.
- B. The legalist believes his forgiveness and acceptance with God is based on performance to a certain self-proclaimed standard.
- C. "Little l" legalism may accept salvation by grace alone, but then believes extra-biblical standards are necessary for godly conduct and sanctification.
- D. "Little l" legalism is often seen developing as a personal conviction and then expecting compliance from others in the church as well which is wrong.

III. Legalism - Its Dangers

- A. Legalism leads to or results from the sin of pride.
- B. Legalism leads to the prideful sin of self-reliance.
- C. Legalism leads to the sin of self-righteousness.
- D. Legalism leads to the prideful sin of self-belief.
- E. Legalism leads to a fear of losing God's love.
- F. Legalism leads to loss of joy.
- G. Legalism steals the assurance of your salvation.

IV. Legalism - Its Solution

- A. First, look to Jesus.
- B. Second, walk in the Spirit.
- C. Paul rebuked the legalistic Galatians by saying...
5:1* ...be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.
- D. Legalism is a yoke of slavery we impose upon ourselves and others.
- E. But with the help of God and desire for His glory, may we cast off the burden of legalism and turn to Jesus Christ who provides true freedom...