

## WHAT LEGALISM IS & HOW IT SHOWS ITSELF Pt. 2

The authentic Christian life is designed to be a daily, personal, vertical fellowship with God based upon your identification with Jesus Christ, motivated primarily by His love, and provided totally by His grace and power, which is enjoyed through repeated responses of faith as one diligently seeks the Lord, resulting in spiritual growth into Christ-likeness, faithful obedience to God's will, and fruitful service in love, all to the glory of God.

Legalism is the mental attitude or false belief which seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ the blessings of God by \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ for either salvation or sanctification.

**Regarding JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE & ETERNAL SECURITY** - In contrast to justification & eternal security by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone ...

1. There is the legalistic teaching of faith in Christ PLUS \_\_\_\_\_ which involves **front-loading the Gospel** (Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 2:8-9) Legalism denies the finished work of Christ by requiring something more be done, thus, making salvation a reward for the righteous instead of a gift of God's grace for the guilty.
2. There is the legalistic teaching of \_\_\_\_\_ which involves **back-loading the Gospel**. LS redefines 'saving faith' from simple trust or reliance on Christ alone and changes it into 'repentance from one's sins and surrender to Christ's Lordship'. In addition, to identify whether your faith is genuine or not it shifts your focus from the object of faith (Jesus Christ) and resting in the unfailing promises of God to your ongoing fruitfulness and faithfulness all the days of your Christian life – destroying the absolute assurance of eternal salvation. LS also confuses justification before God at a point in time and sanctification over time. (Ephesians 2:10; 1 Cor.3:1-4, 11-15; 1 John 5:13)
3. There is the legalistic teaching that believers in Christ can \_\_\_\_\_ eternal salvation by a specific sin, a pattern of sin, apostasy, etc. which involves **unloading the Gospel**. (John 3:16, 10:27-30) If you could lose your salvation, you then would have to do something to keep it. If you have to do something to keep salvation, then it ultimately is a reward for your perseverance and works, not a free gift by God's grace alone and Christ's finished work received through simple faith in Christ alone.
4. There is the legalistic teaching of \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel which involves **confusing the Gospel** with mixed messages such as ....

**Regarding SANCTIFICATION BY GRACE - Galatians 2:20-21:** "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

In contrast to spirituality and practical sanctification by grace through faith in Christ as your Life empowered by the Holy Spirit ...

1. There is the legalistic teaching that while JUSTIFICATION IS GOD'S WORK, **SANCTIFICATION IS \_\_\_\_\_ WORK**. (Galatians 3:1-3)

2. There is the legalistic teaching of **SPIRITUALITY BY** \_\_\_\_\_. This involves thinking you are spiritual because you have participated in some ritual like water baptism or the Lord's Supper. (1 Cor. 11:26-32)
3. There is the legalistic teaching of **OBSERVING** \_\_\_\_\_. (Gal.4:4-10; Col.2:16-17)
4. There is the legalistic teaching of **CONFUSING SPIRITUALITY with** \_\_\_\_\_. (Rev.3:14-21; Col. 2:20-3:4)
5. There is the legalistic **MIS-EMPHASIS** on the \_\_\_\_\_ vs. the \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Samuel 16:7; Col.2:6-7; 1 Peter 1:8)
6. There is the legalistic teaching of the '\_\_\_\_\_ ' approach. (Gal.5:16-18)
7. There is the legalistic teaching of the **attempting spirituality by the** \_\_\_\_\_ approach of legitimate NT activities such as reading your Bible, praying, witnessing, giving, singing, etc. (Romans 7:15-18)
8. There is the legalistic teaching of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ **to be spiritual**, which misunderstands the purpose of 1 John 1:9.
9. There is the legalistic teaching of a carrying over **OT practices for Israel** approach such as \_\_\_\_\_, etc. to be spiritual or binding upon Church-age believers. (Rom.6:14)
10. There is the legalistic teaching of **making** \_\_\_\_\_ issues of spirituality, especially in areas of personal conscience. However, it is not legalistic to properly exercise your liberty for the furtherance of the Gospel (1 Cor.9) or to limit its expressions when needed due to love & a desire to not stumble others. (1 Cor.8)

# The Christian Life

