



# “Legalism”

The Basics  
I Corinthians 7:36-8:3

*Legalism is overcome by:*

## I. Leadership – “has power over his own will” (vs. 36-38)

*Leading that is:*

- A. **Sensitive** – “if any man think that he behave uncomely”
- B. **Steadfast** - “he that stands steadfast in his heart”
- C. **Sensible** – “he that gives not in marriage does better”

## II. Liberty – “she is at liberty” (vs. 39-40)

*Liberty that values the:*

- A. **Law** – “the wife is bound by the law”
- B. **Lord** – “to whom she will; only in the Lord”
- C. **Love** – “she is happier if she so abide”

## III. Love – “if any man love God” (vs. 1-3)

*Love that shows:*

- A. **Deference** – “we know we all have knowledge”
- B. **Diffidence** – “if any man thinks that he knows anything”
- C. **Devotion** – “the same is known of Him”

## Sentence Sermon

*“Legalism is the labor of the loveless litigant.”*

## Additional Verses

- **Colossians 2:8, 20-23**
- **Romans 7:2**
- **I John 4:19**
- **Philippians 1:9-11**
- **I Corinthians 10:13**
- **II Corinthians 3:17; 6:14**
- **Romans 11:6**
- **Acts 13:39**
- **Luke 11:37-54**
- **I Corinthians 15:56**
- **Romans 14:13-17, 20-23**
- **II Corinthians 11:2**
- **I Corinthians 1:5**
- **Ephesians 1:17**
- **I John 2:27**

## Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words or phrases in this passage?
2. Who are the central characters of the passage?
3. Why does Paul say it is better not to let your daughter marry?
4. Why do parents urge their children to marry?
5. What does it mean to marry “in the Lord?”
6. Why is our love of God a sign that we might be saved?
7. What does Christian liberty really mean?
8. How do we know what we are at liberty to do?
9. How do we deal with those things we question or doubt?
10. What legalistic thoughts or actions are you most troubled by?