

FAITH SERIES || Part Two

“A Better Way to Live”

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Legalism can cause our faith to waiver, in the fact that it places on us a set of rules or regulations that we think must be upheld in order to maintain our salvation. It becomes the basis upon which a person gauges their own, and others salvation and spiritual growth. Legalism has been in the church and lives since Satan convinced Eve there was something other than God's way. It is a word that no-one wants to use. It is almost always used in a negative adjective towards someone. Legalism can tear churches apart. The shocking part is that most Christians do not know how it affects our Christian walk on an almost hourly basis.

3 Main Types of Legalism

1. Traditions - likely the most common in the realm of legalism. Just like it sounds, when we place more importance on our traditions than we do on worship. “We've always done it like this” Some traditions are great- but not when they become the driving force of a church or worship service.
2. Personal Preference/Convictions - A Sneaky One. “There's a way we do it here” - when you hear that, it's a clear indicator that someone is under the influence of personal preference legalism. The Bible is the guide, not your preference. It's ideology that these rules are iron clad, because I (or) this group says so.
3. Gray Area Legalism - A Person or persons have set a standard that they believe everyone else should live up to - (wearing dresses and suits to church, starting and ending services at a certain time, only praying at this point in the service, the KJV only groups, etc)

All of these have a core:

At its heart legalism is a desire to appear holy before men and not before God.

THERE IS A BETTER WAY TO LIVE!

Gain Understanding:

NOTES:

The Law:

God gave 10 commandments - a start

Turned into over 600+ (created laws)

No one - not one person can obey 600+ laws, in fact you and I cannot even follow the first 10 to perfection.

The Truth:

The Law was given to point us towards our need for Christ Jesus. God knew we could not abide by the law.

NOTES:

**Let's see how Jesus gave us a better way to live - through grace and freedom.
Building Our Faith - Not Depleting Our Faith.**

The GREATER THAN sign : >

5 > 1

1. LOVE > LEGALISM (Galatians 5:1, 6-7)

_____ says:

I messed up, God is going to kill me.

_____ Says:

I messed up, I need to talk to God.

2. SPIRIT > FLESH

Take your heart to the Lab. What would the diagnosis be?

*Flesh is concerned with _____ & _____

(You've got the look, but not the heart")

*Spirit is concerned with changing our _____

NOTES:

3. THE GOSPEL > THE LAW

Important Fact:

The Gospel is not oppose to **effort**. The gospel is oppose to **earning**.

We cannot earn our salvation, nor can we keep it by following rules.

JESUS fulfilled all of the Law - it is in Christ alone that we are reconciled to God for salvation - Not kept rules. If you think keeping commands/laws/rules is keeping you saved - then you must also believe you are earning your salvation by what you are doing - this makes God's grace cheap and incomplete if WE must do something to keep it, or earn it. (John 1:17, Ephesian 2:8-9) If it were by keeping commands and laws that we earned and kept salvation - heaven would be full of boasters.

*The law shows us our inability to be _____

*The gospel shows us our need for _____

If you want to know what's leading you - Look at your life.

ACTS OF THE FLESH: (Galatians 5:21)

Sexual Immorality - Moral Impurity - Promiscuity - Idolatry - Witchcraft - Hatred(s) - Discord - Strife - Jealousy - Envy - Drunkenness - Outbursts of Anger - Selfish Ambitions - Carousing - etc. (Gal 5:21)

*Works of the Flesh _____ - Not only yourself, but others as well.

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT (Galatians 5:22)

Love - Joy - Peace - Patience - Kindness - Goodness - Faithfulness - Gentleness - Self Control. (Gal. 5:22)

4. KEEP IN STEP (Galatians 5:24-26)

*What is leading you right now?

*The Flesh?

*The Holy Spirit?

Do you need to accept God's gift of salvation today?