



"More rules and regulations make a person more spiritual?"

Part 2 - July 15th 2007

1 Corth 8:

Legalism: Any attempt to help God out with **extra rules & regulations**.
(Man made rules / rituals / ceremonies -- not found in Bible)

LEGALISM - WHAT IT IS NOT

A) Legalism is not obedience to Christ's commandments

2 Cor 5

¹⁹ God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come

B) Legalism is not adopting strong personal convictions

Isa 29:13

The Lord says: (And Jesus repeated in His day) - *In vain they worship Their worship of me is made up only of **rules taught by men**.*

God has given us a conscience – to help guide us

Guidelines: Is this OK for me to do?

1) What does the Bible say? So the first question is always "what does the Bible say?" If the Bible doesn't forbid something then you are free to do it but the questions remains "**Should I do it.**"

2) What is my conscience telling me?

Rom 14:23

But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

3) What does my weakness require?

We are all weak in some areas and strong in others. We need to be honest about our weaknesses.

In **1 Corth 8**: Paul spoke about the weak and strong and how the strong shouldn't cause the weak to sin.

4) What does my brother / friend need?

What is more important your liberty in Christ or the Love of Christ? The law of love always trumps liberty.

Why is the Legalism Myth so Dangerous?

1) It assumes God forgot something.

"If we just put this extra fence up people won't sin."

2) it produces spiritual arrogance.

I can begin looking down on those who don't go the extra mile like me - as I define it.

3) It is spiritually powerless

Col 2:20-23

*why do you submit to rules: 21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!?" 22 they are **based on human commands and teachings**. 23 Such regulations have an **appearance of wisdom**, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but **they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.***

"What to Do When the Bible is Not Clear?"

God has given us a means to judge our motives and weigh our decisions.

Romans 14:23 states, *"...everything that does not come from faith is sin."*

e.g. Instead of asking, "**Is it okay for a Christian to get a tattoo,**" a better question might be, "Is it okay for *me* to get a tattoo?"

Favorite verses for those who want to do drive-by-guiling

Three verses legalist love to quote completely out of context.

1) 1 Corinthians 6:19 "Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit."

1 Cor 6:19

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

1 Cor 6:15-17

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! 16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

1 Cor 6:18-19

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit,

1 Cor 3:16-17

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

1 Cor 3:16-17

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him.

NKJV

2) 1 Corinthians 8:9 - "Never do anything that might cause the weak to stumble."

1 Cor 8:9

Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom (i.e. in all the areas that Scripture doesn't speak to) does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

Misinterpretation = "Never doing anything that annoys / upsets / shocks / or causes them to gossip about..."

3) 1 Thess 5:22 - "Abstain from even the appearance of evil."

1 Thess 5:22

Context is about prophetic words:

Paul says don't despise that (don't just right it off – but on the other hand don't be a gullible sap – "test it.") And if anything is good hang on to it but if anything is bogus and doesn't jive with scripture toss it.

1 Thess 5:19-22

*Do not put out the Spirit's fire; 20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. 21
Test everything. Hold on to the good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil.*