



More Rules More Holy?

Matt. 23

7-29-07

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

There is nothing wrong with extra rules / regulations / ceremonies / rituals that are self imposed – i.e. you have added them to your life to protect a unique spiritual weakness in your life or to build strength.

Legalism is when we take those rules and we impose them on others.

Isa 29:13

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

Because of this Jesus was at war with the Pharisees (the religious establishment) over their legalism.

It didn't make them Holy. Instead it made them: proud / self reliant / more distant from God

But they didn't think so & neither did the people – everyone believed the myth
"the more extra rules you keep = more holy..."

But Jesus. didn't that is we mustn't either.

Imposing extra rules produces death not life!

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.

Today's message: Where this legalistic / man made religious way always leads and how strongly Jesus feels about it.

Matt 23:1 *Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples,*

2 saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; 3 therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them.

1 Tim 1:15-16

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

Matt 23:4 "They tie up heavy loads, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger."

False Religion: Man made rules... legalism
Hypocritical
Self-righteous
Bossy & judging

5 "But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries, and lengthen the tassels of their garments.

Deut 6: These commands - Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

False Religion:
Showy, egotistical

5b "And they love the place of honor at banquets, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called by men, Rabbi.

⁸ "But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹ "And do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ "And do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ.

God calls us to:
Honest
Self-effacing

11 "But the greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 "And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

God calls us to:

Serving
Other-centered

13 *"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from men; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.*

"By works of law shall no flesh be justified." Gal 2:16

15 *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel about on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.*

16 *"Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obligated.'*

17 *"You fools and blind men; which is more important, the gold, or the temple that sanctified the gold?"*

18 *"And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, that is nothing, but whoever swears by the offering upon it, he is obligated.'*

19 *"You blind men, which is more important, the offering or the altar that sanctifies the offering?"*

20 *"Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears both by the altar and by everything on it. . .*

False Religion:

Hypocritical
Self-righteous
Bossy & judging
Showy, egotistical
Cannot bring life
Fascinated with the ridiculous

God calls us to:

Honest
Self-effacing
Serving
Other-centered
Offers eternal life
Emphasize what Bible emphasizes

23 *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more*

important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

You strain at a fruit fly in your punch glass and don't even seem to notice or care as you choke down chunks of camel carcass... lips and tails and all...

God calls us to:

Admit own failure and focus on what really matters--love and trusting God

25 *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.*

They actually did this – Mark 7:4 they washed the outside of their pans... they taught that if you went to the market they washed the cups / kettle... because the air is full of uncleanness because of the immoral people there – Talmid - so you need to cleanse it of all the contaminated moral filth it has come in contact with.

26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

Not outward of ritual and shows of righteousness.

Who is looking at the outside? People

27 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean.

28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

False Religion:

Cover own failure with camouflage of ethical whitewash

God calls us to / Authentic spirituality:

Honest

Self-effacing

Serving

Other-centered

Offers eternal life

Emphasize what Bible emphasizes

Admit own failure and focus on what really matters--love and trusting God