



Scriptures and Doctrine :: Legalism

Legalism - posted by Earendel (), on: 2009/12/23 3:01

I do not know if I have posted this here in its entirety; I have searched and have not found it. If by chance that I have posted it here in its entirety, then please forgive my indulgence.

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Let me start this by quoting another:

*"Legalism is like a disease. It is both highly contagious and deadly. It can go undetected and show no fatal symptoms for a long period of time. In the end, however, it always pays its toll. I've never heard anyone stand up and boldly proclaim, "I'm a legalist!" If someone realized they were bound by legalism they would surely put an end to it. Unfortunately legalism is very blinding. It's easier for a sinner to realize he is a sinner than for a legalist to realize he is a legalist. As long as we can't identify what legalism is, it can keep us in its bondage.*

*Legalism is oftentimes very hard to recognize and can be hard to distinguish from true holiness. This is because the actions of the legalist, and the actions of someone who possesses true holiness are generally the same. The difference is the motive of the heart. One's motivation is to save themselves, or keep themselves saved, while the other's motivation is to please the One who died for them..." (Jason Dulle)*

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...One does work out of compulsion in bondage (no joy - not born again), and the other out love that the Holy Spirit brings in our hearts (much joy and full of glory...a well of living water springing up into everlasting life.) **We are the recipients of mercy and grace, not of wages.** The difference is being Born-Again and Phariseism, which is the behavior of a sanctimonious and a self-righteous person.
...or Relationship vs. Religious Compulsion.

Righteousness before God has already been purchased for us. Righteous living is something that we do because we are born of the Holy Spirit, and we submit ourselves in obedience to the Holy Spirit, who by the Grace of our Father in heaven, leads us into holy living, a work not of compulsion or of ourselves, but of love that is born of God, which is in our hearts.

Paul said in Philippians 3:6-8 "concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things I loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ"

The law of God requires works of righteousness, so why would Paul discard his righteousness in the law...(works in the Law) if he were so perfect in it?

Romans 3:21-22 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

How is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus work to bring righteousness anyway?

The answer is very simple actually, well not to everyone, just those to whom the Father will show this to. It is because Jesus took away ALL my sins forever, and in the absence of sin the Law is fulfilled.

So, Here is a question:

If a person were completely sin free in their life (because Jesus washed away the sins), would the righteousness or holiness that the Law of God requires be fulfilled?

The answer is yes, because in the absence of sin the law is fulfilled!

So...if Jesus took away all of my sins after repentance and giving my life to Him, and I am blameless before God and sin free, do I fulfill the righteousness or holiness that the law of God requires?

The answer is yes; I fulfill the righteousness that the law of God requires because I have no sin in Jesus...because Jesus took and washed away my sins and nailed them to the cross! ...I am therefore sin free before God and fulfill the righteousness that the law God requires. This is what is meant by the righteousness by faith and NOT by works!!!

So then the righteousness that the Law of God requires, is fulfilled in every single person who comes to Christ Jesus. This is what it means that Christ is the end of the law and that He fulfilled the law. This is the righteousness which is by faith, and not by the works of the Law of God.

Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

How is the Law established?

The Law is established because there is no more sin to deal with, because Jesus took the sin away, and in the absence of sin the Law is Fulfilled, "Yes...yes it is established! This is the righteousness that is by faith, and not by the works of the Law.

Romans 5: 1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

The very reason that Christ came into the world was so that He could free us from sin and the consequences of sin, and more than that, so that we could become a new creation in Christ Jesus. And in the absence of sin, which is through the cross of Christ, the Law is fulfilled.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (King James Version)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

What about Holiness and Holy Living....hasn't the Lord said you must be Holy for I am Holy?

Holiness becomes you...

God truly wants the repentance of man, for man to make a volitional choice for Him...to openly repent before Him and to

follow Him, to Call upon Him...

He wants good works towards Him based on a loving personal relationship from the heart, and not on good works based on a reliance of oneself... or in ones' ability to live holy by following a given set of rules – and yes there is a difference

Yes, there are moral rules and guidelines to follow and understand, but they are only to instruct me in the ways of righteousness and holiness as I seek Him inwardly, and personally and they teach me of the nature of Jesus.

The scriptures give me an understanding of the nature of Him who has called me out of this world to be His son, to a new life in Him which is hidden in Christ Jesus - the Holy Spirit bears witness to this truth.

His good works in me (holiness) comes, not based on my own understanding of what true holiness is, but rather based on the inner workings of the Holy Spirit in my life since I accepted Him, and it is in my yielding to Him in all things in obedience, and not on my adherence to or on reliance of myself to seek His favour by doing good works (what I perceive as holiness). It's not what I can do, it's what He does and can do through me.

Because I love Him in the very pit of my soul, and am truly born of Him, I will seek out those things that always please Him, I will hate the things that He hates, and I will love the things that He loves...if only that I may have just one moment, just one moment in time that I may truly glorify Him in this earthly body...and this I will do as His Holy Spirit who is within me permits, and teaches me all things.

Does this mean that I will never make a mistake and never sin again? ...no it does not. I hope that I never sin again, but if I do, I know I have an advocate with the Father who is Jesus Christ the righteous. I know that if I acknowledge my sins before God, that He is faithful and just to forgive me and to cleanse me from ALL unrighteousness. And I dare say to any one that I need to have works in order to be forgiven, nothing but the precious blood of the Lamb can erase sins.

The bible teaches me that: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. Galatians 6:15

Hence and therefore my salvation is not based upon me believing that my good works toward Him (personal holiness) will save me (or even merit me any favor at all), but rather on a TOTAL surrender of my life to Him, and upon a reliance on Him for my holiness and righteousness, that He who has begun a good work in me will complete it until the very day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

I just need only to yield to Him, I just need only to yield to Him and say yes Lord Jesus, yes Lord...have your way in me and be glorified in me, let me be obedient to you through your Holy Spirit.

And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. Romans 6:13

Those who are truly born of the Spirit of God and are led by Him will indeed mortify sin in their earthly lives, whose hearts are right with God.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—^{not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—}heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. Romans 8:12-17

Re: Legalism - posted by Heydave (), on: 2009/12/23 5:54

This is a good presentation of righteousness by faith and living out this righteousness by the Spirit. Thank you.

Quote:
-----His good works in me (holiness) comes, not based on my own understanding of what true holiness is, but rather based on the inner workings of the Holy Spirit in my life since I accepted Him, and it is in my yielding to Him in all things in obedience, and not on my adherence to or on reliance of myself to seek His favour by doing good works (what I perceive as holiness). It's not what I can do, it's what He does and can do through me .

I like this!:-)

A very good message by Zac Poonen about the danger of legalism and worldliness is 'Three marks of the New Covenant Life'. He shows that they both use the law in the flesh rather than the Spirit. See link below.
<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid=13571>

Re: Legalism , on: 2009/12/23 8:38

Quote:
-----One's motivation is to save themselves, or keep themselves saved, while the other's motivation is to please the One who died for them..." (Jason Dulle)

Oh man that was nice to read. Thank you for sharing that.

Re: Legalism - posted by Leo_Grace, on: 2009/12/23 10:51

Wonderful post, Earendel! It covers all the essentials of true rebirth and navigates beautifully through the difficult concepts of salvation by grace. Everyone should read this. Thank you.

Re: Legalism - posted by twayneb (), on: 2009/12/24 8:58

Earendel: What an awesome post. I was blessed as I read it.

Php 3:9-10

(9) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

(10) That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Praise God that my righteousness is through faith in Christ.

Travis

Re: The New Covenant - posted by Earendel (), on: 2011/2/2 2:27

Now, concerning the law or the old covenant.

Please read:

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%20:5-13&version=NKJV>

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The new covenant, not written on tablets of stone, but as the Lord has said: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts.

The old covenant was done away with, ...in that He says - He has made the first covenant obsolete, in that it was weak through the flesh, and replaced with the enabling power of the Holy Ghost for Godly living.

Please read in conjunction with what I wrote about in the opening post.

I made the following response in another thread, but I do not know how to make a link a link to it.

Please forgive the length of the following post, I know how hard it is to keep track of these sometimes.

It is of the utmost importance that we keep our hearts right before God, but how do we do that? (just decide in your heart that you will just love Him no matter what) Is it in what we say, or what we do, or both? A heart that is right before God submits to obedience, which is the essence of a pure heart.

I believe The Apostle Paul teaches us that God can and will give us all joy and fulfillment in our souls that we need, especially in the time to come. Be filled the Holy Spirit who completes us, and no longer indulge the senses of the flesh to excess.

Ephesians 5:18 (New King James Version)

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

I believe what the Apostle is saying is:

Instead of getting drunk with wine and indulging the senses, rather to be filled with the Holy Spirit who completes us. The Apostle Paul was not likening the infilling of the Holy Ghost with drunkenness or being drunk, but rather a turning away from the works of darkness and to be filled with the Holy Ghost who completes us, and fills that void in our souls. Has not the Lord Jesus said: "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14

In the beginning I believe Adam walked with God, where his body was filled with God's Holy Spirit - there was a communion there. God's Holy Spirit filled a part of Adam that completed him (Shekinah) and made him unique in creation, which made him the living temple of God.

Adam lost this when he, through transgression, fell. The Shekinah Glory of God lifted from Adam, the same way that the Shekinah Glory of God lifted from the Jewish Temple (the physical one before it was destroyed in 70 AD).

Since the fall of Adam, our race has sought to fill "that missing part" that incompleteness in us, by indulging in the senses of the flesh. And without the Light of God (the Holy Spirit, who was, and now is the majestic presence or manifestation of God in man) man would grow exceeding dark and sinful (which is what happened), for without light, there can only be darkness...and if the light of your eye is darkness, then how great the darkness.

...but we are no longer in darkness (that is to say without the Holy Ghost and the grace of God)

Ephesians 5:8 " For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light"

This indwelling Shekinah presence of God in His temple is something that was always meant for man, we were created for this purpose - we are (that is our bodies) "living temples" of the Holy Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 10

- 1 For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
- 2 and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
- 3 and did all eat the same spiritual food;
- 4 and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of a spiritual rock that followed them: and the rock was Christ.
- 5 Howbeit with most of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.
- 6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.
- 7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.
- 8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.
- 9 Neither let us make trial of the Lord, as some of them made trial, and perished by the serpents.
- 10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them murmured, and perished by the destroyer.
- 11 Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.
- 12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Now consider that they did not have the Holy Spirit who gives power for Godly living.

John 7:39

39 But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believed on him were to receive: for the Spirit was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified.

And what judgment do you suppose will be to us to whom the Holy Spirit has been given? This is not to say that we will not fail/fall from time to time...it is God's grace that saved us, AND IT WILL BE GOD'S GRACE THAT KEEPS US.

The Church received power for Godly living and testimony on Pentecost - and it is through the righteousness and grace of God that the free gift of the Holy Spirit is given, even to us, who through obedience to the faith in Christ Jesus are made righteous by His shed blood...in that He took away our sins, and in the absence of sin, the righteous requirements of the law are fulfilled; therefore, the Holy Spirit could come. It was not until Jesus Christ had ascended to the Father, after His resurrection, that the Holy Ghost could be given - which is the promise of the free gift.

An understanding given by the Lord Jesus Christ to me:

The power of sin is in the Law (as delivered to Moses), and the wages of sin is death...for through the Law, I have knowledge of sin and sinned reviled and I died. (This is the Law of sin and death)

But the law has no power over me anymore...and why does it have no power over me?

... it is because I have no sin...and because I have no sin, I am not under the law.

If I had sin, the law would have power over me, and I would be under the law, but now I have no sin and am therefore not under the law.

Is this a heresy? No it is not, let me explain.

I have no sins because of the Blood of the Lamb ...that Jesus took my sins away and nailed them to the cross (I am crucified with Christ). When God looks at me, He sees only the blood of the Lamb applied to the door posts, not my sins. (This is the sinless perfection I am referring to) God sees no sins through the blood of the Lamb! Now, is the blood applied to the doorposts? ...this is what should be asked about.

I am not saying that I have obtained sinless perfection in the flesh, or cannot be tempted to sin, nor that I am sin free and without fault in my life, I have many faults...I am saying that only through the cross of Christ I have no sin, because Jesus took them away with His death on the cross.

Whether you accept this or not, this is sinless perfection! ...yet not by works of the flesh, but only through faith in Jesus Christ. (righteousness by faith) This is not so hard to understand. So I then, fulfill the law of God by being sinless, just as He commands, yet not by works, but by faith in the cross of Jesus Christ to forever remove my sins — righteousness by faith and not by works.

But righteousness by faith came for a purpose...even a new creation, which God has through the Holy Ghost birthed in me. Just as it is written: 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.

And this is why the Holy Ghost could be given freely to us:

"Where there is no sin, the Law of God cannot condemn, but is fulfilled."

Jesus Christ, with His own blood entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption for us. It was not until sin was removed (through the cross of Christ), and the righteous requirements of the law were fulfilled (absence of sin), that the Holy Spirit could come, who wrote the laws of God on our hearts rather than on tablets of stone...even as it is written "I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

But I cannot refer to the judgment of God without referring to His great and tender mercies for humanity (of whom I am the largest recipient of His grace)...because as it is written God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

And I am not talking about sinless perfection (in this life) here (we still have to deal with Eph 6:12 on a daily basis which is NOT the sinful nature), but they will be taken out of the way soon enough as per: Revelation 12:7-10

... but I am referring to the way into the Holiest of All, the very presence of God (the Holy Ghost in us) - the Divine life (nature), which God in his mercy has freely given to us (the embryo or seed of God in us) the God life, the new creation, the new birth, the new man.

1 Corinthians 15:47-49 (New King James Version)

47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. (and the heavenly man was NOT sinful)

Romans 8:9 (New King James Version)

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

We really need a true revival of the Holy Ghost...and we need a functioning body (Ephesians 4:11-13)

And a revival does come and soon now...and what do you suppose is going to be the end result?

it comes...during the Great Tribulation

Much glory awaits us...

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

...but then comes true revival on a global scale when that Grand Old Mansion, that glorious House/Temple of God (who we are), is rebuilt, so the the glory of the latter end of the house will be greater than the former.

Because there is no accuser standing before God accusing us, Ephesians 6:12 will end for us, and so will all the works of the devil as pointed out above. But persecution at the hands of those who take the mark of the beast will occur.

Even as Christians, He has not rewarded us according to our works.

God has not rewarded us according to our ways, nor has He recompensed us for our backsliding, and I am witness to this because I fell short of His Spirit's work and was a prodigal son. But He called me while I was in bondage to sin, and broke the curse. He broke the shackles that held me in bondage to sin and disobedience and shattered the teeth of the devourer for my sake. He gave me repentance to eternal life which caused me to be broken, humble and contrite before Him, (truly, Godly sorrow swallowed me up) - God is my witness.

In the midst of my brokenness and repentance before Him He came to me, and forgave me. His Spirit overshadowed me and He renewed a right spirit within me. The scales of sin fell from my eyes, and I began to see with perfect light. He has called us to Himself because He is very merciful and forgiving.

edited for content.

**Re: Legalism - posted by seekhymm (), on: 2011/2/2 17:54**

I don't remember who it was that I heard say:

We sometimes mistake legalism for obedience.

What a provoking thought that was to me.

**Re: - posted by libertad, on: 2011/2/2 18:24**

Milt Green said, "Obedience is not Legalism".

**Re: - posted by learjet, on: 2011/2/2 20:53**

What legalism is:

Anything that is done or not done out of fear of judgement.

That's my personal definition anyways :-)

In Christ,  
Earl J

**Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2011/2/2 20:57**

Legalism is infringing what God has shown you upon others.

**Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2011/2/2 21:16**

WoW

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2011/2/3 0:50**

Quote:

-----Legalism is infringing what God has shown you upon others.  
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This is a pretty good description of what legalism is. It is worth remembering that the word "legalism" is predicated upon "law", and when a law is violated, a crime is committed. If I find myself imposing spiritual "laws" unto others, and through these laws introducing the aspect of "criminal activity", I have now made myself an accuser of the brethren. A condemner, a judge. Precisely the same treatment the Pharisees lavished upon Jesus through outward observation. They saw Him eat, drink, touch lepers, forgive harlots, break the sabbath in letter, et cetera. Criminal activity! Multitudes of people do this today, in the secret parts of their heart, toward other believers. They legislate laws upon a Christian man's hair length, for example - or if a woman wears jewelry or pants, or if a Christian couple observes certain holidays like Christmas or Easter. They put laws upon music, eating, drinking, and then try to affix God's stamp on it all. These actions have already been legislated in their hearts as legal or illegal; judgment is passed immediately upon observation.

All this is the result of an immature comprehension regarding the allowance of the Holy Spirit in the life of an individual believer. Many believers, through the influence of denominationalism and/or personal mentors, mistakenly bring the Kingdom of God down to the level of constitutional human government and the Holy Spirit is relegated to the level of a civil magistrate: Curfews suddenly go into effect, rations imposed, ordinances dictating one's private life are established, and the "law of the land" just gets stricter and stricter as the criminal penalties increase.

But what many do not understand is that we are judged according to light given, and not by a one-size-fits-all law. The latter is Old Testament legislation. Imagine the light Jesus had! And yet Old Testament scholars and Rabbis condemned Him as Beelzebub, the prince of devils. Ironically, the one law that we DO have from God in the New Covenant which is one-size-fits-all (and which the legislators always fail to mention) is that man will be judged by the same measure of judgment he imposes upon others.

**Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2011/2/3 9:47**

There are many false religions that attempt to base one's righteousness or "salvation" on man's works. Hinduism for example is man's attempt to be right with what they perceive as God by self effort in keeping the laws of the Hindu religion. Substitute Shinto or any other world religion (ism) into that sentence and the result is always the same. Man's attempt at righteousness through his own efforts. The same can be said of legalism. It is man's attempt at righteousness by self-effort in keeping the laws of God.

Paul is right. The fallout of these efforts is often a self-righteous and condemning spirit toward others. They unwittingly seek to place their own chains of bondage on others. But it is the end result in the life of the legalist that is often most damaging. Their lives are often fraught with self-doubt, self-condemnation (actually this is often really the condemnation that the law brings) and a total lack of faith. The question, "Have I done enough now to earn..." is constantly in the minds of those who are legalistic. Legalism is that wretchedness that Paul spoke of in Romans 7.

Legalism is a tempting thing. For some reason it seems many of us who have grown up in the church are pre-wired for legalism. When seeking God for anything I often hear faint undertones in my heart of legalism. "Maybe I have not seen my answer yet because of something I have failed to do. Maybe I broke this law or that one." This is subtle but must be overcome just as blatant legalism. We must learn to walk in the grace and truth brought us by Jesus Christ. We must learn to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

I am reminded of the context surrounding Romans 8. "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." So often we assume carnal mindedness is "worldly" mindedness in the sense of sin, ungodliness, or simply worthless or empty pursuit. But in the context of the preceding chapters, carnal mindedness means that our minds are centered on the physical pursuit of keeping the law. It is a focus on the things of the flesh. It is a focus on "fleshing out" the "Thou shalt nots" and the "Thou shalts". It brings only bondage (Gal. 5) One might even say, "For to be legalistic in your approach to God is death", for that is the only result the law brings. But to walk in the Spirit, to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Christ has abolished the commandment that was against us, nailed it to the cross, and now we can approach Him by His grace through faith, and not by our own works.

**Re: - posted by TrueWitness, on: 2011/2/3 10:13**

I would like to quote from an essay entitled "Resting is the Required Obedience" regarding man's response to the law and God's grace:

Man in his sinful state hates the God who will only deal with him in grace. Romans 8:7 describes man as being hostile to God. The reason for his antagonism is that the grace of God faces man with the fact that he can do nothing to merit God's gifts. Man is the helpless recipient of all of God's blessings, not because of who he is or what he may have done, but because of who God is. This brings everyone to the same level with no one being able to boast that he deserves the gifts of God.

When people see the Law, they grasp at it as an opportunity to get out of the humiliating position grace had placed them into. Many consider the Ten Commandments as rules that they must keep to show God that they are not as bad as He says they are! By keeping the rules, they can prove to God that they are capable of improvement and of pleasing Him. It takes NO faith or grace to live by the law. Living by the law is done by a person's self-effort of responding to commandments that they think they must keep in order to live in harmony with God. This is completely wrong. We can ONLY respond in faith to His gift of grace!

**Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/2/3 10:14**

what i can attest to is that one will ruin their life with legalism, I have been there and still coming out of much of the ill rhetoric.

When u come to the end of yourself, you will then know that you know, love overrides and conquers legalistic views, God's love

**Re: - posted by libertad, on: 2011/2/3 12:38**

Excellent quote TrueWitness.

Resting is our required obedience!

Quote:  
-----When people see the Law, they grasp at it as an opportunity to get out of the humiliating position grace had placed them into. Many consider the Ten Commandments as rules that they must keep to show God that they are not as bad as He says they are! By keeping the rules, they can prove to God that they are capable of improvement and of pleasing Him. It takes NO faith or grace to live by the law. Living by the law is done by a person's self-effort of responding to commandments that they think they must keep in order to live in harmony with God. This is completely wrong. We can ONLY respond in faith to His gift of grace!  
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Perfect. Yes, many people are obeying the law because it is something that they think they can do (and it makes them feel better because of the other "failures" in their life). They can obey the watered down law (because no one can keep it perfectly) but they won't receive His grace and mercy. That is the height of pride.

But we are all one big failure. We must humbly admit this and that will lead us to accept His grace and mercy.

**Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2011/2/3 13:10**

Who is the accuser of the brethren? What does he use to accuse us with? The answer is the legalism of the Law. In Christ he no longer has a hold on us. Satan cannot accuse the Christ that is in us. Only our minds can be used to condemn us. We must renew our minds to the new and not let the flesh feel good by keeping the Law, for that is what the Law is using to accomplish its work, of God to bring us to Christ, of Satan to bring us to condemnation. Fallen Flesh cannot be justified by the Law because condemned flesh cannot keep it. Christ is the only fulfillment of uncondemned flesh, He that is in us is our Justifier, only can He justify.

1 Corinthians 1:29-31 That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Righteousness;

Strong's Greek Dictionary

1343. dikaiosune

Search for G1343 in KJVSL

dikaioσunh dikaiosune dik-ah-yos-oo'-nay

from 1342; equity (of character or act); specially (Christian) justification:--righteousness.

By Faith through the Spirit has The Spirit of Christ that is born again in us keep us interring His rest.

The epitome of legalism is condemnation. Our Rest is Him who is our Sabbath.

Joh 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Ro 5:16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

Ro 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

Ro 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1Co 11:34 And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

2Co 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

1Ti 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

In Christ: Phillip

**Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2011/2/3 15:28**

If we put ourselves back under the Law as Peter did when the bus arrived from Jerusalem with James and the other Jews, and Peter ran back into the Jewish Law separating himself from the Gentiles whom he was fellowshiping with, Paul thus rebuking him to his face, as Peter was putting himself and all the other Jews who were with the Gentiles indulging themselves in the freedom which had come by the Christ in them, he was putting himself, Peter, back into the things he was separating himself from, the Law. This is sin.

Galatians 2:16-19 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

Peter was building again the things which were destroyed in him by Christ, putting himself back into legalism by which no flesh shall be justified, thus making the Christ in him a minister of sin, making Peter himself a transgressor by which Christ has set him free.

In Christ: Phillip

**Re: - posted by enduretoend, on: 2011/2/3 21:04**

HeartSong,

God also commanded circumcision and said that any male not circumcised MUST MUST MUST MUST MUST be CUT OFF from his people!

But the New Testament directly contradicts the law of circumcision. Do you agree that the New Testament contradicts the Law of Circumcision?

So you have a choice. Follow Christ or follow Torah. God made sure that the two are not compatible. The Torah will kill you because of your sin. Christ will give you life eternal. This is the message of the HOLY BIBLE.

It's LAW (Death) vs. GRACE (Life).

You say, "if we LOVE GOD will all our heart, all our mind, and all our soul, and all our strength, we should follow the 10 COMMANDMENTS."

Yes, you MUST follow the Ten Commandments the way that the Lord God Almighty has taught you in His Holy Bible.

Christ is the END OF THE LAW! He is our Sabbath. You must not REPLACE Christ with a fleshly attempt to fulfill an Old Testament command that was meant to be a type of Christ.

The Sabbath command was a command to REST not worship. It has nothing to do with the Christian tradition of meeting on Sunday.

As for Any day one likes ... the CHRISTIAN answer is to see the fulfillment of the Sabbath Command in the fact that CHRISTIANS rest EVERY DAY from their works as it is written:

Hebrews 4:1-10 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. ... 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

THAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT SABBATH. It is fulfilled in Christ. We have entered into His Rest. He finished the work. The NT is a spiritual book, and the Children of God understand exactly what it means. The old carnal ways of external commandments ENDED when Christ died and rose from the dead and gave us His Holy Spirit and wrote His Laws on our hearts. This is the Gospel! The idea of "Sabbath keeping" is contrary the Gospel.

**Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2011/2/5 19:30**

How refreshing, Christ truly is our Sabbath.

In Christ: Phillip

**Re: rest - posted by seekhymm (), on: 2011/2/8 13:30**

All who are weak and heavy laden come to me and i will give you REST.

Amen, He our Lord is our rest:Sabbath

**Re: - posted by Earendel (), on: 2012/6/21 4:59**

Quote:  
-----Ironically, the one law that we DO have from God in the New Covenant which is one-size-fits-all (and which the legislators always fail to mention) is that man will be judged by the same measure of judgment he imposes upon others.  
-----

True Mr. West,

It is God's grace that saves us, not we ourselves, not our understanding of scripture... Remember to always have mercy, as it always triumphs over judgement...(and we must be of this mind)

The heart of the Father is forgiveness, love, patience, long-suffering, mercy and so much more.

The only condition(s) I see is faith, a penitent heart, and a willingness to follow Him, regardless of how many times we fail

ll on that rocky road named repentance. It is the blood of the Lamb that takes away our sins, not our works...

and if there are no sins,

then there is no law that can condemn.

Therefore, in the absence of sin, the law is fulfilled... not by works, but by faith in the finished work of Christ. This is righteousness by faith.

I do not believe that there is sinless perfection in this life outside the finished work of Christ. God called us by mercy to His grace through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, not because of ourselves.

2 Timothy 4:18

New King James Version (NKJV)

18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Jude 1:24-25

New King James Version (NKJV)

Glory to God

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless

Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

25 To God our Savior,

Who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty,

Dominion and power,

Both now and forever.

Amen.

**Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2012/6/21 7:09**

PaulWest wrote:

"If I find myself imposing spiritual "laws" unto others, and through these laws introducing the aspect of "criminal activity", I have now made myself an accuser of the brethren. A condemner, a judge."

This is true. We have this spiritual precept illustrated in the following verses...

Psa 1:1 Blessed the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

"Nor sits in the seat of the scornful" refers to what you said above.

And how does one become scornful?

Pro 1:22 "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge.

The scornful have not submitted to the work of the Holy Spirit. They choose to remain simple.

**Re: - posted by Earendel (), on: 2012/6/21 17:17**

I started this thread with the intent to show that it is God's grace alone that saves us, and it is God's grace alone that keeps us too (hopefully this is what is conveyed). Yes we have to be obedient, yes we have to repent, and yes God has given to us the earnest of His Holy Spirit to help us in our daily fight, and to live and be godly. But even if we sin and fail the grace of God, we just need to repent with a true heart, even as it is written and God's grace is sufficient to save us, and to cleanse us anew.

1 John 1:9  
(NASB)

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

No, this is not to make an excuse for living a sinful life (a gospel of NO repentance), but it is a means by which we are accepted in the beloved, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace...

The Apostle Paul wrote:

Romans 8:26-28  
(NKJV)

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

And so we keep the faith delivered to us.

**Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2012/6/21 20:15**

Earendel wrote:

"I started this thread with the intent to show that it is God's grace alone that saves us, and it is God's grace alone that keeps us too (hopefully this is what is conveyed)."

Psa 1:1 Blessed the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

Psa 1:2 But his delight in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Psa 1:3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Psa 1:4 The ungodly not so, But like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Psa 1:5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

Psa 1:6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Does your understanding align with this Psalm?

**Re: , on: 2012/6/22 15:48**

Was reading this small book yesterday and thinking - "It's All about Love".  
The ideal love of a bride for her Husband and vice versa.

Quote from Hudson Taylor's Commentary on the Song of Solomon: "One with Christ".

"She is deeply conscious that He has richly endowed her and that she is as nothing compared with Him. But instead of proudly dwelling upon what she has done through Him, she would prefer that it would be possible for her to be the giver and Him the receiver.

This is far removed from the grudging thought that must grate so on the heart of our Lord, "I do not think that God requires this of me" or, "Must I give up that, if I am to be a Christian?"

True devotion would instead ask to be allowed to give and would count as loss all that may not be given up for the Lord's sake; "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Phil 3:8)

This desire to be more to Him does not, however, blind her to the consciousness that she needs His guidance and that He is her true and only Instructor.

She is essentially saying, "I want to give You my best, and yet I want to seek all my rest in You. "His left hand should be under my head, and his right hand should embrace me." (8:3)

There is nothing sweeter to the Bridegroom or to the bride than this hallowed and unhindered communion."

**Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2012/6/22 16:19**

Earendel: Many view legalism as overly zealous conviction. I have seen those who allow X in their lives call those who condemn X legalists. I think I might have had that view at one time myself. But as I prayed and meditated on the subject several years back, I felt like the Lord showed me something key about legalism.

Legalism is the attempt to approach God or to be considered right in the eyes of God by the keeping of carnal ordinances, whether self imposed, imposed by others, or found in scripture.

So if I say, "God, I have done such and so...I have read my Bible, I have prayed, I have kept commandments to the best of my ability. Why have I not seen my prayers answered yet?" That is legalism.

It is a lot like Hinduism, Buddhism, or any other ism. Followers of these ism's trust in their own ability to keep the teachings of Buddha or however it might be in order to be acceptable to God.

We often accuse others of being legalists, but in reality it is in our own hearts that we often return to the law in order to feel we are acceptable to God. That is legalism. I have noticed that whenever I fall into legalism my faith suffers, I experience condemnation, and I find myself failing. But when I learn to walk in the spirit and rely totally on the grace of God for my acceptance by God, I experience joy, peace, and freedom in Christ.

**Re: twayneb - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/6/22 21:51**

very well said twayneb!! the entire post very well said!!

**Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2012/6/23 5:04**

" But when I learn to walk in the spirit and rely totally on the grace of God for my acceptance by God, I experience joy, peace, and freedom in Christ."

exactly true, now that you found freedom in Christ, what do you choose to do with it?

Do you choose to do His will, or do you remain an outsider and insist that grace is a substitute for true love? Jesus-is-GOD covered that part, however our problem today is we do not know what true love is anymore. We believe it is similar to some type of affection that does not include being subject to a higher authority. Basically we are self-sufficient, and would never give up our own understanding, which is the part in us that terms the word 'legalism', instead of trusting only th

e God of the Bible, that not only does not use that term, but introduces His understanding of the whole subject to us. Now it's up to us whom we believe and follow.

Just because Jesus offers us grace does not neglect the fact that He still has His will, that we either follow or rebel against.

**Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/6/23 8:46**

Quote:  
-----Â... however our problem today is we do not know what true love is anymore. We believe it is similar to some type of affection that does not include being subject to a higher authority. Basically we are self-sufficient, and would never give up our own understanding, which is the part in us that terms the word 'legalism'Â....  
By a-servant  
-----

Brilliant insight! I am borrowing your words for my "Submission" thread because it applies so well. Yes, we define "legalism" according to our own moral paradigms, and it goes something like this:

The legalist is the guy to the right of me.

And by our own unspoken definitions we absolve our own conscience - and our moral obligations to one another - ie love - even while we believe we are walking purely by the Spirit. But we're still legalists - with ourselves as our highest legal authority.

Diane

**Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2012/6/23 11:58**

a-servant: Tit 2:11-14  
(11) For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,  
(12) Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;  
(13) Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;  
(14) Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

You are right. There are those who have taken the terms grace and freedom and used them as a cloak for a licentious lifestyle.

Jud 1:4  
(4) For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

But these men, as far as I can tell, have not truly partaken of the grace and love of God. If I have truly partaken of God's grace, if I have truly received a revelation of His love for me, and if I have truly experienced freedom in Christ, then I will love Him and desire to do His will.

The first definition of legalism that I referred to is often used by those who want to take advantage of the grace of God in order to follow their own desires. But that is like a person shoplifting, and on the way out the door calling me a legalist as I stand in line to pay for my purchase.

If we really experience the grace, forgiveness, joy, peace, and freedom that comes from Christ, we will be forever changed and our heart will be to follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

**Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2012/6/24 19:08**

Amen!

I was talking with a sister about what you wrote, and she said this is the key to all:

1:12 Â But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

- 1) these that received him,
- 2) to them gave he power
- 3) to become the sons of God

'Become' means 'not yet', born-again is just the beginning of a relationship for those that at that time received him

Now power is given to them

That power has a purpose and a direction

and that purpose is to become the sons of God

**Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/6/24 19:57**

dear aservant, when did Jesus give us power to become the sons of God?when He went to the cross is my answer and as we believe into Him we are born again. do a word study on john 3 15,16 and you will find out that we do not believe on or in but into Jesus.jimp

**Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2012/6/25 5:07**

John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

You have to be born of God by the incorruptable Seed of the Father, which is Jesus Christ the living Word. The power comes with the gift of the Holy Spirit and the life of Christ by His Spirit that dwells in us forever with the Holy Spirit Comforter Teacher. Power comes with the birthing, He is the only One that has the power of life and death, also in His own life the same power of resurrection.

ohÂ 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

JohÂ 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

This is the same power of life in Christ as when we are crucified with Christ and yet we live by the power of His resurrected Spirit that now lives in us.

Becoming sons of God by Grace upon Grace, Faith to Faith, by the resurrection power of Jesus Christ taught by the Holy Spirit learning precept upon precept the word line upon line. This is the power of Jesus Christ given Him by His Father to give to us to fulfill the Word of God.

Colossians 1:25-29 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

IN Christ: Phillip

**Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2012/6/25 7:14**

a-servant wrote:

" Basically we are self-sufficient, and would never give up our own understanding, which is the part in us that terms the word 'legalism', instead of trusting only the God of the Bible, that not only does not use that term, but introduces His understanding of the whole subject to us."

This is true. How can we learn to love unless we submit to the Holy Spirit? How can we know the mercy of God unless we ourselves, through experiencing His chastening, show mercy to one another? How can we extend grace unless we first have through the Spirit put to death the flesh?

A legalist is one who, in his mind knows the law of God, but has not found the way to satisfy the law of God. Thus a legalist develops a spirit of condemnation and not love.

**Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2012/6/25 15:40**

One of the best illustrations regarding legalism I have ever read or heard, from Chuck Smith's "Why Grace Changes Everything."

"Those who have read the classics are probably familiar with the story of Ulysses. During his travels, this ancient adventurer heard stories of the island of the sirens - deadly enchantresses who made such beautiful music that any sailors passing by would turn their ships toward shore and be dashed upon the rocks. No one had ever heard the song of these sirens and lived. This sounded like a worthy challenge to a daring man like Ulysses. He decided to become the first to hear this music and survive.

In order to achieve his goal, Ulysses put wax in the ears of his crew and instructed his men to tie him securely to the ship's mast. As they rowed past the island of the sirens, the seductive music began. Ulysses began to strain against the ropes, struggling to get loose so he could swim to shore. He cursed at his sailors to turn the boat toward the rocks, but the wax prevented them from hearing his cries. Ulysses continued to fight against his bonds until the ship moved out of range and into safety. Ulysses had heard the song of the sirens and lived - yet ever after he was haunted by the memory of the beguiling music.

Greek myths also tell of another ship that passed this island and yet survived. As its crew was being drawn by the deadly melody to disaster on the shoals, a gifted man on board named Orpheus grabbed a lyre and began to play. The music of Orpheus so far surpassed that of the sirens that the men turned away from the rocks and sailed to safety, enraptured by these new, exquisite melodies that gave life.

When we face the pull of temptation, most of us can relate to either Ulysses or Orpheus. For some, the siren song of the world has an almost irresistible attraction. They find themselves bound in place by the law, yet struggling against the rules when enticed by the power of the flesh. Their only hope is in the law that holds them back. The joy of oneness in Christ far surpasses anything the world or the flesh can offer.

But there are those who have heard a new song - the music of heaven in their hearts. They discover that the love of Jesus Christ is so strong and satisfying that, although the world is still attractive, they gladly leave it behind so they may be powerfully drawn into His beautiful presence. They don't have to be tied or bound. They aren't struggling against restricting ropes. They have discovered the glory of walking with God in intimate fellowship.

The joy of such oneness in Christ far surpasses anything the world or the flesh can offer. The allure and attraction of sin has lost its power. Those who have discovered this kind of fulfillment don't need laws. Instead of slavishly following a regulation that says, "Now, don't bash your neighbor's head in!" they have no desire to do so because their heart has been touched by the love of God. They simply want to see their neighbor saved."

**Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2012/6/25 19:09**

Obviously the best of our understanding is only worth anything, if we can agree with Paul on his humble standing in the new creation that made him say things like:

"I'm still walking in the process" - and don't regard myself as arrived yet, or I will be in danger of falling away quickly, all paraphrased from the original:

Philippians 3:12 Â Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

So 'to become' means in other words : "we may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus"

"may" - let's do a word study on that, and be convinced that the result will be the exact meaning of the author's intention to speak truth, and nothing but the truth.

Philippians 3:16 Â Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

1 Timothy 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

**Re: Legalism - posted by Anastasis, on: 2012/6/25 19:34**

I find the original post comforting. Legalism was the very sin I had to confess to when the Spirit worked on me, and that enabled me to fly to Christ. It's much better to come out and admit your filth than try to whitewash it and have the tombstone removed before the bar of God when it is too late.