

### Week 5

Ways we attempt to become spiritual:

✓ Legalism:

Man made **SYSTEMS** that force someone to obey a set of rules or standards in order to be spiritual...

Obedience is \_\_\_\_\_, true submission is *internal*.

Disciplined flesh does **NOT** represent true spirituality or victory. Instead, it leads to self-righteousness.

Legalism is an attempt by **MAN** to live with the appearance of spirituality with an unregenerate spirit towards God's commands... ending up no different than the Pharisees – Mark 7.

Legalism often breeds a “\_\_\_\_\_” life...

**NOTE** This occurs when someone acts one way at church or around certain people and acts like someone else with others.

Legalism is more than hair length and dress codes...

**NOTE** *A legalistic person is usually **NOT** hard to spot: A legalistic heart always questions the motives and character of **others**. A legalistic person is always looking for “**DIRT**”. A legalistic person often thinks you have “something to hide”. Be careful when you think everyone else is wrong...*

✓ Works:

If I do enough \_\_\_\_\_ things, then I am spiritual.

The **FLESH** can do good as well.

The issue is **NOT** doing but being – Lk. 10:38-42; Mt. 22:36-37

Good works can make us **FEEL** like we are victorious...

**NOTE** David always gave God credit for the good things...

- The “good” works of the flesh:

The flesh is capable of doing \_\_\_\_\_ things – Lk. 11:42; 18:12 – Good works are right – using them to glorify our flesh instead of God is not!

When the flesh learns it is no longer allowed to do evil, it will do good in order to maintain **CONTROL** – Joshua 9:3-14

Once control is established, it will soon revert to **EVIL** again.

**KEY** We cannot fight the \_\_\_\_\_ with the flesh – Gal. 3:1-3; 2:16; 1 Co. 1:26-31; 2 Co. 10:1-5

- How to recognize the “good” works of the flesh:
  - Self- **WILLED** is not easily **LED**.
  - Self- **DISCIPLINED** is not easily adjusted.
  - Self- **CONFIDENCE** is not easily criticized.
  - Self- **MOTIVATED** is not easily led.
- The results of the “good” works of the flesh:
  - Self leads the way and asks **GOD** to come along.
  - Self- **CONTROL** results from a self-led life. It is much better to let God be in control.
  - Self- righteousness will result in **UNRIGHTEOUSNESS**. (pride, unbiblical judging, etc.)

**KEY** The whole goal of true spirituality is the absolute lack of confidence in self and the **FLESH**. To come to the place where all our confidence is in God, His **POWER**, His Spirit and His **WORD** to direct us...

- Satan’s role:

The flesh is Satan’s **WORKSHOP**. Though forced to move out he left his **ESTATE** behind.

When forced to, he will gladly exchange sinful acts for \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness.

When overt sin is prohibited, he will fill your life with so much **GOOD** that there is no room for **GOD**. Remember: His sin was not immorality or murder it was **SELF** will (pride).

**KEY** All unrighteousness in the world has at its root \_\_\_\_\_!

As long as we are doing God’s stuff for self, the spiritual **POWERS** know the difference. Satan’s one desire is **OWNER** of a throne.

**NOTE** He cannot possess a believer, but he can “rule” them.