

"GETTING BEYOND SELF-EXALTING INDULGENCE"

I Corinthians 8:1-13

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. "Now as touching things offered to idols":
 - 1. Addressing a new topic of division:
 - 2. Placing the text in context:
 - 3. How carnality taints the subject:
- B. Three terms to carefully unpack: **(See back)**
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- C. Three targeted areas by both divisive groups:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

II. EMBRACING LOVE LIMITING LIVING:

- A. Beginning with "knowledge", where right thinking begins: **vv. 1-6**
 - 1. What "grounded" believers knew about:
 - a.
 - b.
 - 2. What "grounded" believers missed:
 - a.
 - b.
- B. Adding "love" to the "knowledge" equation: **vv. 1-3**
 - 1. Truths to know about love vs. the flesh: **(Jn. 13:34-35)**
 - a.
 - b.
 - 2. Love and knowledge, two inseparable halves: **(Eph. 4:15; II Pet. 1:5-7; I Cor. 13:2c)**
- C. Sifting the data through your God-given conscience: **vv. 7-13**
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

- A.
- B.
- C.

Legalism: "Legalism is not the presence of laws. If the presence of laws is legalism, then God would have to be charged with promoting legalism since He has given mankind 613 laws in the Old Testament and thousands more in the New Testament. Legalism is also not the imposition of laws on someone else since the Bible sanctions parents and church leaders to impose laws on their families and church groups. Legalism is the conformity to a standard for the purpose of exalting self. It is a wrong attitude toward the code of laws under which a person lives. It is a fleshly attitude which conforms to a code of conduct for the purpose of exalting self. Having to do something is not legalism but the wrong attitude toward doing it, is. It suggests individuals are better than others because of what they do and don't do, and that God loves them more than someone else, because of what they do and don't do. Legalists have no gray areas believing every act is either black or white. Spirituality to them is doing the things on their good list and avoiding the things on the bad list, in spite of their Godless motives on the inside. Legalism is attractive because it appeals to their self righteous pride and their emotional feelings at the same time." *Dr. Charles Ryrie (Since legalism is not a Biblical word, any definition must be derived from the implications of Scripture, not direct statements)*

The lure of legalism (Self-righteousness): Legalism often displays outwardly blameless actions with inward abominable motives and attitudes. It is self-centered rather than God-centered. Legalism is using any set of rules, good rules, even God's rules, in a wrong way. It is seeking to achieve forgiveness from God and acceptance by God through your obedience to God. It is seeking to relate to God on the basis of your work rather than on the work of Jesus Christ. It is consumed with achieving the minimum (never the maximum) focusing on everyone around them, to make sure they are required to do the same. Legalism share three common traits; arrogance, a short fuse, and an unforgiving heart. Just like lust (self-indulgence), legalism (self-righteousness) leads to a truly miserable existence with ramifications for all of eternity."

Liberty: "Liberty is not the opposite of legalism. It does not give believers the freedom to live as they want to live. It gives true believers the freedom to live a seemingly impossible life as God wills them to live. The specific impossible commands along with the power and motivation to obey them, come from the indwelling Holy Spirit. Liberty has brought the freedom to be slaves of righteousness. (Rom. 6:18) It places them in a position where they can live as God pleases, something they were unable to do as lost people. Liberated living is not unrestricted. Liberated living is love-limiting living, and that is true spirituality." *Dr. Charles Ryrie (Ja. 1:25; Gal. 5:1, 13-15; 6:2; Rom. 8:2)*

License: License is the false notion that true believers can live their life however they personally choose without any outside source posting any restrictive boundaries. It is tolerant self serving indulgence. Like legalists, they have no gray areas either but neither do they believe much is black. Almost everything is white; everything is acceptable as long as it is not specifically forbidden in the New Testament. (Rom. 6:16, 18) They believe that Christian freedom is virtually absolute and unqualified. As long as their conscience is free, individuals can do as they please." (Gal. 5:13)

CHRIST'S BOUNDARIES FOR MY LIBERTY

Excess – "Is the activity necessary, or is it merely an extra that in the big scheme of things, I probably could live without?" (Heb. 12:1)

Expediency – "Is what I want to do helpful and useful, or only desirable?" (I Cor. 6:12)

Entrapment – "Can what I want to do, potentially become a harmful habit?" (I Cor. 6:12; II Cor. 10:5)

Emulation – "Is what I want to do, something Christ would want me to do? (I Jn. 2:6)

Example – "Am I setting the right example for my family and others, especially younger Christians in the Lord?" (I Tim. 4:12)

Evangelism – "Is my testimony for Christ going to be helped or hindered? Will a lost person be drawn to Christ or pushed away from Him by what I plan to do? (Col. 4:5)

Edification – "Will I be built up in Christ and become spiritually stronger by what I do?" (I Cor. 10:23)

Exaltation - "Will Jesus Christ be lifted up and glorified in what I do?" (I Cor. 10:31)

SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.