

Colossians 2:16-23

SELF-MADE RELIGION

Do not submit to anyone's added _____
on your life. (2:16-17)

What are some ways that you tend to fold to the expectations of those who want to add rules to your Christian life?

Don't allow the false promises of _____ religious practice steal from you the rewards of the true growth that comes from _____. (2:18-19)

What are some teachings today that exist inside or outside of the church that are not centered in the truth found in Christ?

Restricting ourselves from the things that God richly blesses us with has _____
_____ in restraining _____ in our lives. (2:20-23)

In what ways might you be overly focused on what you're doing or giving up for Christ and not on His work in and through you?

Rules and standards abound in our world. Every society and group on the planet have a written or unwritten set of standards that they expect their members to adhere to. Step out of line, and you can expect to feel the judgment. For Christians, our standards are found in the person and work of Christ, not in the standards that originate with us and that we want to place on others. He is the plumbline.

People will always want to add to His requirements, subtract from our freedom in Him, multiply teaching beyond what He laid down, or divide our attention from the substance of our faith to unimportant matters. That kind of math may appear profitable but will never do a thing to address our human weaknesses. Real help will only come through holding tightly to Christ, the true source of our new life.