

## MODERN EXAMPLES OF SANCTIFICATION LEGALISM Pt. 4

**What is legalism?** *Legalism is the mental attitude which seeks to earn or merit the blessings of God by religious rituals of good works for either salvation / justification or salvation / sanctification.*

1. **There is the legalistic confusion that while justification is God's work by grace through faith alone in Christ alone that practical sanctification is man's work by faith in Christ PLUS your good works instead of by faith alone in Christ alone RESULTING in good works.** {2 Cor. 3:5; Gal. 2:16-3:5}  
Conclusion: Both justification before God and practical sanctification in time are totally by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone via the WOG and the Holy Spirit resulting in fruitfulness & good works.
2. **There is the legalistic confusion of attempted spirituality by law or the legal thinking of "OBEY & you will be blessed / spiritual" vs "walk by faith in Christ because you have been blessed in Christ & are forever loved by Him and this will result in the fruit of the Holy Spirit & good works".** {Rom.15:13; John 15:1-8}
3. **There is the legalistic confusion of attempted spirituality by \_\_\_\_\_.**  
This form of legalism involves thinking that God wants you to observe the Sabbath or Jewish holy days or other "Christian holy days" to be obedient to God or spiritual & to not observe them would be sin. Is there a "Christian sabbath" and Christian "Holy Days" scripturally? (Ex. 20:8-11; Gal. 4:4-11; Colossians 2:16-17)

What about Rom.14:1-5 & issues of liberty or areas of conscience as it relates to "Christmas" or "Easter", etc.?

**Some needed clarification about Christian liberty & areas of conscience:** These are areas of personal liberty and conscience that are not specifically commanded or condemned in the Word of God. These do not include areas of clearly defined sin (Rom.13:11-14), or which are illegal (Rom.13:1-7), or involve doctrinal compromise (Romans 16:17). These are due to different cultural, family, or religious backgrounds (14:2,5) and various stages of spiritual maturity. (14:1, 15:1) These can be used to serve Christ and others in love or misused to indulge your flesh (license) or legalistically judge others.

### Questions to ask regarding your exercise of liberty & conscience?

- 1) "CAN I WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE DO \_\_\_\_\_ AS UNTO THE LORD?" (14:1-9)
- 2) "WILL I BE ABLE TO GIVE A \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE LORD IN MY USE OF PERSONAL LIBERTY?" (14:10-12)
- 3) (14:13-17): "AM I USING MY PERSONAL LIBERTY IN A WAY THAT IS \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ OTHERS?" (14:13-17)
- 4) "AM I USING MY PERSONAL LIBERTY TO \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ ? (14:18-20)
- 5) "AM I WILLING TO \_\_\_\_\_ MY USE OF LIBERTY IN \_\_\_\_\_ TOWARD OTHERS? (14:21)
- 6) "AM I ABLE TO DO \_\_\_\_\_ AS UNTO THE LORD WITHOUT SELF-CONDEMNATION? (14:22-23)

Conclusion: The believer who rightly divides the WOG understands that there are \_\_\_\_ “holy days” under grace to be observed as \_\_\_\_\_ day is to be set apart to walk & serve the Lord.

4. **There is the legalistic confusion of attempted spirituality by \_\_\_\_\_.** This form of legalism involves thinking you are spiritual as a believer because you have participated in some ritual like water baptism or the Lord’s Supper etc. (Gal. 5:1-4, 8-14, 6:11-15, 1 Cor. 11:26-32)

- What are the 2 biblical ordinances for church age believers and what do they picture?
- Must water baptism be your first act of obedience in the Christian life? Do the Scriptures require that you be water baptized to become a member of a local church?
- Can a believer serve the Lord without being an official “member” of a local church? What about church “covenants”? Should the LC be important to you? (Heb.10:24-25)
- How should you view water baptism regarding your spirituality & sanctification from a grace approach?
- Does celebrating the Lord’s Supper make you a spiritual believer? (1 Cor. 11:26-32)
- Is a local church disobedient IF they do not celebrate the Lord’s Supper every Sunday?

Conclusion: As believers in Christ walks by faith in Christ & grows in grace in their sanctification, they are privileged to \_\_\_\_\_ in these ordinances in fellowship with the Lord & to be done as unto the Lord, but not to be spiritual or to become “members” of the local church.

5. **There is the problem of confusing spirituality with \_\_\_\_\_.** (Rev. 3:14-20)  
Do you understand “carnal moral” & the problem at Laodicea?

- Asceticism is the false belief that the blessings of God & the sanctifying of the soul comes through the discipline of the body. (Colossians 2:6-8, 20-23)
- Conclusion: While true spirituality will result in biblical morality, anything that the flesh produces is \_\_\_\_\_ true spirituality though externally it may appear to be.

6. **There is the misemphasis on the \_\_\_\_\_ vs the \_\_\_\_\_.** (Heb. 11:1, 6:1 Peter 1:6-9; 2 Cor. 4:17-18, 5:7)

- In the means of salvation:
- In the means of church membership:
- In the means of spirituality & sanctification:
- What are the results of the “brownie point” system approach?
- What do you really want in your Christian life & church – law or grace?