

What Exactly is Legalism?

- A. Charges of “legalism” and “Phariseeism” get thrown around quite frequently in modern discussions about God’s will for our lives and his church, often as a conversation-ender.
- B. The problem? While just about everyone knows that they are meant to imply something really bad, they are often ambiguously wielded, left undefined, or misapplied altogether.
- C. So what exactly is “legalism”? For what were the Pharisees of Jesus’ day actually rebuked?

I. “Woe to You, Scribes and Pharisees...”

- A. They rejected God’s _____ for themselves (*Luke 7:28-35*).
- B. They trusted in the fact that they were descendants of _____ (*Matt 3:7-9*).
- C. They failed to see their need for a _____ (*Luke 5:27-32*).
- D. They thought _____ of themselves and looked down on others (*Luke 15:1-2; 18:9*).
- E. They elevated their _____ to the level of revelation from God (*Mark 7:1-13*).
- F. They were _____ in their teaching and expectations (*Matt 23:1-36*).
- G. They revealed the true condition of their hearts by rejecting _____ (*Mark 12:13*).

II. What Legalism *ISN’T*

- A. _____ isn’t legalism (*Josh 1:7-8; Luke 17:10; 2 Cor 5:6-10*).
- B. _____ the _____ of God isn’t legalism (*John 6:28-29; 3:36*).
- C. _____ isn’t legalism (*Titus 2:10-15*).
- D. _____ isn’t legalism (*1 Pet 1:13-16*).
- E. Confronting _____ and refuting _____ isn’t legalism (*2 Tim 3:16-4:5*).
- F. _____ for the faith isn’t legalism (*Jude 3*).
- G. Taking a _____ - _____ stand isn’t legalism (*1 Pet 4:1-5*).

Conclusion:

- A. Grace and obedience, faith and works, love and correction are never at odds in Scripture.
- B. What *is* too often out of line is my attitude toward the revealed will of the ultimate authority.
- C. My responsibility is to obey God from the heart that I might be a blessing (*Matt 5:17-20*).