



“Mind Your Own Business: Legalism pt. 3”

Don't Ruin Their Life by Trying to Run It

Romans 14:13-23

Introduction:

Review – Use Slides

- The Problem in the passage and the local church
 - The definition of Legalism
 - Adding to the clear teaching of the Word of God.
 - The distinction between 4 values in our lives
 - Clear Biblical Commands
 - Biblical Principles
 - Personal Conviction
 - Personal Preference and Opinion
- The distinction between being conservative and being a legalist.
 - We can be conservative, restrictive, and old fashion and not be a legalist. It is when we try to make others be restrictive and old fashioned that we become legalists.

Talk about the Chiastic Order:

- A Warning concerning stumbling blocks – verse 13
- B. Nothing is unclean in itself – verse 14
- C. Do not destroy one for whom Christ died – verse 15

- C'. Do not tear down “the work of God” – verse 20
- B'. All things are clean – verse 20
- A'. Don't do anything to cause others to stumble – verse 21

These are the big ideas of the passage but Hebrew chiasms may be too high church for me...Look at this slide and I think it puts the concepts on the lower shelf.

If You Run your life – too much of You in your life ...not enough of Jesus

If I Try to run your life – I will ruin it for you because I make you: Dependent on me, focus on pleasing me, lose sight of the Father's Righteousness...the Son's Peace...and the Holy Spirit's Joy that God has for you, and lastly you will sin by living without faith.

It is Our Business to : Examine, Exalt, Edify, Exercise

I. Examine Yourself – “walkest...charitably” (vs 13-15)

VIDEO – Dirk Hardcastle – We tend to want to blame someone else but are often unwilling to examine ourselves and take responsibility.

Are you willing to accept the :

A. **Responsibility** – “no man put ”

B. **Reserved** – “to him it is unclean”

C. **Restriction** – “destroy not him with thy meat”

Why Should I restrict myself? Look at the text. Verse 15 says because you love those around you. Do you love your children...restrict yourself in front of them. Do you love your spiritual children...restrict yourself in front of them.

II. Exalt the Lord– “ acceptable to God” (vs 16-18)

Are you concerned when the Gospel is :

A. **Slandered** – “be evil spoken of”

B. Sidetracked – “kingdom of God is not meat and drink”

What is the kingdom of God or the Gospel all about?

Look at the Trinity in this passage...Both of them...

The Father – provides Righteousness

The Son – Provides Peace

The Holy Spirit – provides Joy

C. Suspect – “approved of men”

We call ourselves God’s children and even servants but do we really serve Christ? Our serving of our own interests leads others to suspect there is nothing worthy of their faith and allegiance in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

III. Edify Others– “wherewith one may edify ” (vs 19-21)

Are you aware of what your life is :

A. Pursuing - “ follow after things ”

Are you pursuing a piece of the pie or peace for the whole of mankind?

B. Producing – “destroy not the work of God”

Why do you think God juxtaposed the words ...tear down and build up so close together?

Perhaps we cant just

C. Protecting – “anything whereby thy brother stumbles”

IV. Exercise Faith – “whatsoever is not of faith ”(vs 22-23)

Are you able to keep your personal convictions :

A. Concealed - “ have it to thyself before God”

Do you know what your pastor thinks about buying new cars or birth control? I have an opinion and conviction but I keep that to myself unless someone asks and wants to get another perspective but I am not going to preach about them.

B. Contemporary – “he that doubteth is damned”

Have you changed your mind about anything over the years? Sure hope so. As we grow, we become more convinced of somethings but less convinced of others. We must act with confidence or faith or else we are sinning. Keep current with how God wants you to behave in an everchanging environment.

There are gray areas between Christians but there should not be any gray areas for Christians.

Smoking, Drinking, Dating vs. Courtship, Homeschool vs. Christian School vs. Public School, Order of worship or time of Worship, Pews vs. Chairs, Hymns vs. Other types of Christian Music, Secular Music, Certain Instruments, working on Saturday, Working on Sunday, Britches on women, Other translations of the Bible, Body Piercing, Tattoos, Movies, Golf, Billiards, Dietary restriction, Dancing, Playing Cards, Swimming in Pools with opposite gender, etc.