

## **What Shall I Do? – Part 2**

### *Legalism and the Christian Life*

Luke 10:25-28; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 6-18-17

#### **1. We are all afflicted with a legal spirit. (25)**

In reality, we are all ‘lawyers’ – in spirit: all of us are concerned about the law in our relationships with God and others. Legalism is a distortion of God and the gospel and His Law and leads to a distorted life! But we must be clear on what legalism is and not think it is what the Bible actually calls us to.

Legalism is not:

- Loving the law/commands of God. (Psalm 119:97-104)
- Seeking to do what pleases God in all things. (2 Corinthians 5:9)
- Doing what the Bible says we should do. (1 John 2:3-6)
- Encouraging other believers to do what the Bible says to do. (Romans 15:14; Hebrews 10:24)
- Asking ‘what is right?’ and ‘what is wise?’ in every situation. (Ephesians 5:15-21)

The cure for legalism is to see what it is and what the gospel is.

#### **Happy Father’s Day!**

Father’s Day is a mixed bag. It may be a celebration and it may not be. Why is that? Our fathers are sinners and they fail. We can have wrong attitudes toward our fathers.

- We can think very little of our father.
- We can fail to love and appreciate our fathers as we should.
- There are things we never expect to hear from our father.

All this can result from a legal spirit and a legal perspective on our relationship with our fathers and especially with our Heavenly Father.

#### **2. A legal spirit is focused on what we must do (ie, Law) rather than what has been freely offered to us or done for us or given to us (ie, Grace). (25)**

- Seeing the keeping of the law as an end in itself. (Luke 13:10-17; Matthew 23:13-14; Luke 11:42)

- Trying to obey the law as ‘rule keeping’ not ‘relationship’ with God. (Luke 18:9-14)
- Trying to keep the law in order to earn salvation. (Luke 10:30-37; 18:18-27)
- Thinking that God’s blessing is the result of my performance instead of a gift of grace. (Luke 15:11-32)
- Keeping the letter of the law while violating the spirit of the law. (Matthew 5:20-28; 23:25-28)
- Adding man-made laws to or in place of God’s law. (Mark 7:1-13)
- Majoring on the minors and minoring on the majors. (Matthew 23:23-24; Luke 11:42)
- Getting upset if we think we have not gotten what we deserve and others have gotten what they don’t deserve. (Matthew 20:1-16)

**3. The solution to the legal spirit is grace, grace, grace!**

- We need to recognize that we are unworthy of any of God’s blessings, no matter what we do. (Luke 17:7-10)
- We need to remember Eden to see the problem and see the solution. (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-6, 15; Romans 7:1-6)