

GRACE AND LEGALISM

WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVATION

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

~ Galatians 5:1

1. What's your motivation

- a. Everyone is driven/ruled by something – 1) other people, 2) your flesh, 3) the Spirit
- b. Legalism – when you work according to imposed rules (external) – requires laws
- c. Grace – when God works in you through faith (internal) – requires sound doctrine
- d. What motivates you to live as you do?

2. The Flesh Problem

- a. The issue is sin; how to control the flesh; how many rules/what kind?
- b. Legalism works to produce change *from the outside*
- c. Grace works to produce change *from the inside* - Grace crucifies the old man – Rom 6:6
- d. This happens as a result of a doctrinal change in the heart by faith – Rom 6:17
- e. Grace kills you (Gal 2:20); dead to sin (Rom 6) & dead to the law (Rom 7) both are flesh
- f. Not under the law does not mean “not under sound doctrine”, else licentiousness reigns

3. Discerning Grace and Legalism

- a. Legalism – when salvation requires works
 - i. Grace is when salvation is w/o your works – Eph 2:8-9, Rom 4:5, 11:6
- b. Legalism – when your standing/identity is determined by behavior
 - i. Grace – when your standing/identity is determined by sound doctrine by faith
- c. Legalism is easy b/c someone else tells you how to live; hard b/c you are not changed
 - i. Grace is easy b/c the work has been done in Christ; hard b/c it requires study
- d. Legalism requires right **behavior**; and separates based on wrong behavior
 - i. Grace requires right **doctrine**; and separates based on wrong doctrine
- e. Legalism requires you follow the group; don't offend the people in the group
 - i. Grace teaches dependence on the Bible (Ro 10:17), don't offend God's word
 - ii. Warning: it's easy to replace one group with another group, and never learn grace
- f. Legalism says you must work in the name of the law; Grace works for Christ's sake
- g. Legalism places you under the authority of law, traditions of men, the group
 - i. Grace places you under the authority of God's word rightly divided
 - ii. Grace is not free from all authority – 1 Tim 5:17, Phil 3:16, Gal 6:16, Rom 13:1-3
- h. Legalism places you under the instruction/ rule/ standard of the law, conformed behavior
 - i. Grace places you under the instruction/ rule/ standard of grace doctrine
 - ii. Grace is not free from standards or instruction – 2 Tim 3:16-17; Eph 2:10
- i. Grace is **not** free from submitting and committing, free from good works, free to do anything, free to believe anything (Titus 2:1; Rom 16:17), free to sin (1 Cor 6:12; 10:23).
- j. Christ made us free from being flesh driven, by being Spirit driven – Gal 5:1; 2Cor 3:17
 - i. Flesh driven = laws working on you; Spirit driven = doctrine working in you